



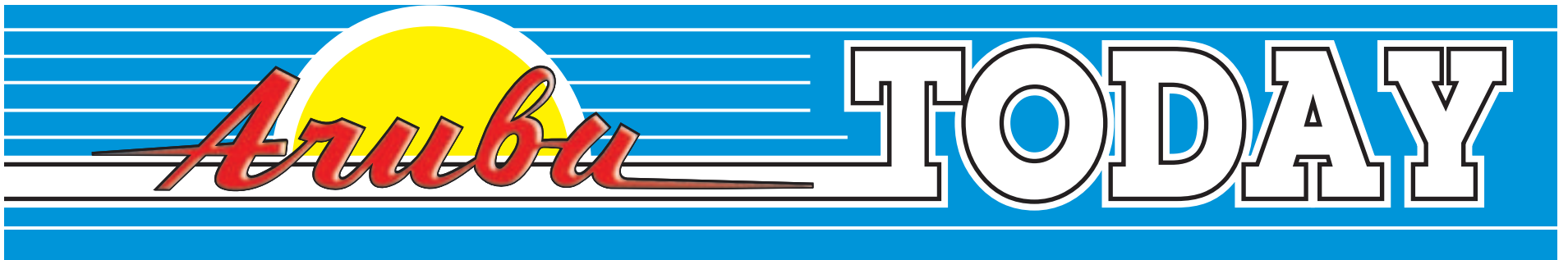
ACROSS U.S. JOB MARKET, LAYOFFS BECOMING RARE

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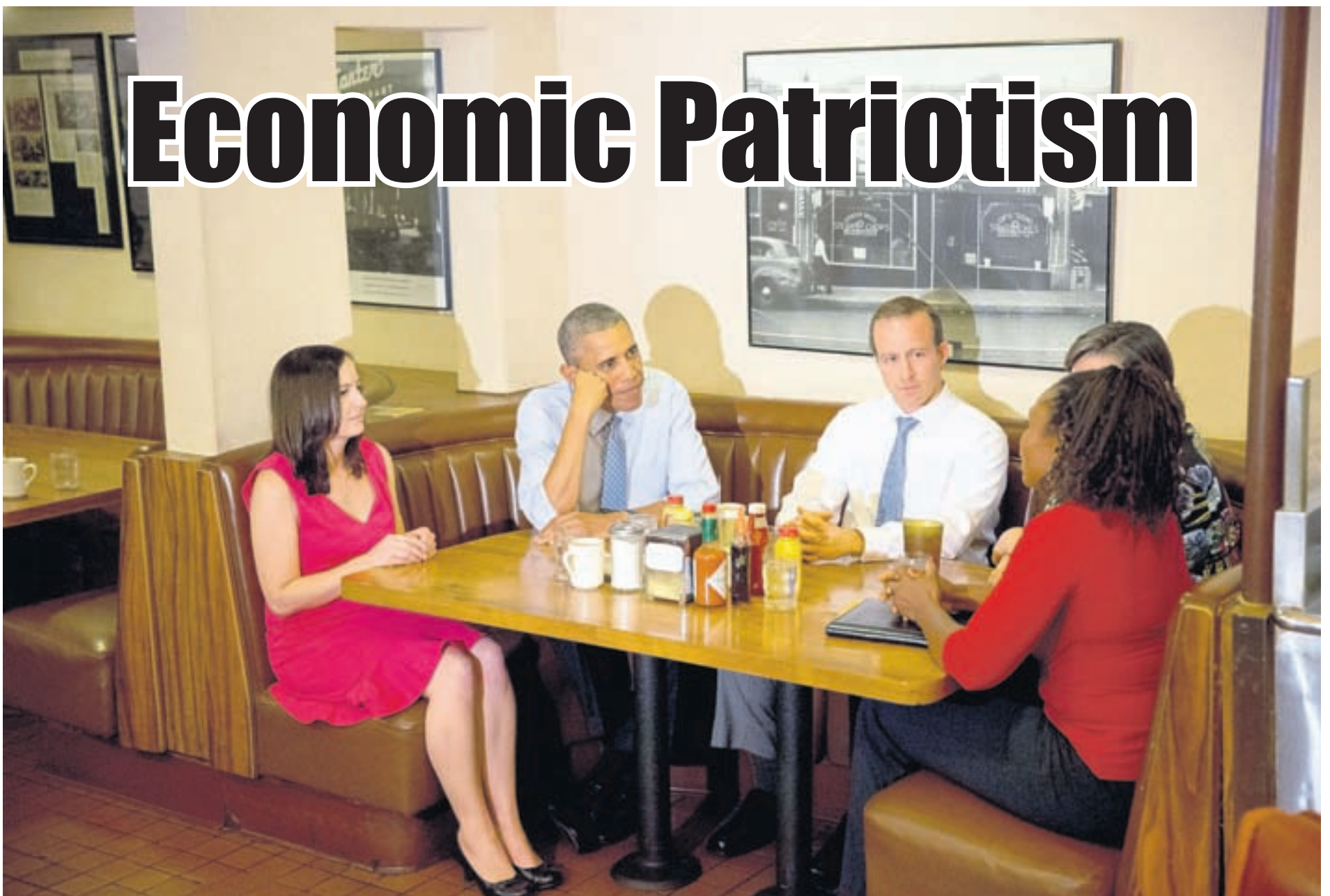
DUTCH WILL SEND UNARMED POLICE TO JET CRASH SITE

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800

Friday, July 25, 2014



Economic Patriotism

President Barack Obama meets at Canter's Deli in Los Angeles, Thursday, July 24, 2014, with, from left, Kati Koster, Aaron Anderson, Joan Waddell, and Katrice Mubiru, on the final day of his three-day West Coast trip to. Koster, Anderson, Waddell, and Mubiru wrote letters to the president about issues that included education, military veterans resources, and the economy. Striking a populist stand ahead of the midterm elections, Obama is demanding "economic patriotism" from American corporations that seek overseas mergers to avoid U.S. taxes.

(AP Photo)

Obama: Stop Letting Firms Shield Profits Abroad

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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LOS ANGELES - President Barack Obama called Thursday for Congress to

end a tax loophole that allows big corporations to designate a foreign country as their official address, avoiding American taxes

while maintaining their presence in the United States.

In an appearance at a technical college meant

to focus on job training, the president used unusually harsh language to describe companies that take advantage of the reloca-

tion practice, known as inversion.

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Ex-Venezuelan Intelligence Chief Detained in Aruba

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As fighting rages in Gaza, UN school caught in cross-fire



Israelis mourn during the funeral of Staff Sgt. Daniel Pomerantz at the cemetery in Kfar Azar near Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, July 24, 2014. Pomerantz was killed while fighting in Gaza. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

**IBRAHIM BARZAK
IAN DEITCH**

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— A U.N. school in Gaza crowded with hundreds of Palestinians seeking refuge from fierce fighting came under fire Thursday, killing at least 15 civilians and

leaving a sad tableau of blood-spattered pillows, blankets and children's clothing scattered in the courtyard.

Palestinian officials blamed Israel for the shelling, which wounded dozens and came on the deadliest day so far of the current round

of fighting, while the Israeli military said it was investigating the strike and raised the possibility the compound was hit by Hamas rockets amid a marked increase in Islamic militant attacks in the area.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon angrily de-

nounced the attack, saying the killing must "stop now." But the frantic diplomatic efforts spanning the region were running into a brick wall: Israel demands that Hamas stop firing rockets without conditions, while Gaza's Islamic militant rulers insist the seven-year Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the territory must end first. "Many have been killed — including women and children, as well as U.N. staff," Ban said in a statement, though he did not elaborate and a later U.N. communique made no mention of humanitarian workers being among the casualties.

In the aftermath of the attack, a child's sandal decorated with a yellow flower lay in a puddle of blood, while sheep and cattle belonging to those seeking shelter grazed in the grass nearby. A large scorch mark scarred the spot where one of the shells hit. Dozens of wounded, including many children, were wheeled into a nearby hospital as sirens wailed. The U.N. said it had been trying to achieve a humanitarian pause in the fighting to allow the evacuation of civilians from the area.

Kamel al-Kafarne, who was in the school, said people were boarding buses when three tank shells hit.

"We were about to get out of the school, then they hit the school. They kept on shelling it," he said.

It was the fourth time a U.N. facility has been hit in Gaza fighting since the Israeli operation began on July 8. UNRWA, the U.N.'s Palestinian refugee agency, has said it discovered dozens of Hamas rockets hidden inside two vacant schools, but U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said the school hit Thursday in the northern town of Beit Hanoun was not one of them.

The U.N. has also expressed alarm that rockets found in the schools have gone missing after they were turned over to local authorities in Gaza.

"Those responsible are turning schools into potential military targets, and en-

dangering the lives of innocent children," U.N. staff and anyone seeking shelter there, a U.N. statement said Wednesday.

Fighting was fierce across the Gaza Strip Thursday, and at least 115 Palestinians were killed, making it the bloodiest day of the 17-day war. That raised the overall Palestinian death toll to at least 799, Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said. Israel has lost 32 soldiers, all since July 17, when it widened its air campaign into a full-scale ground war.

Two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker in Israel have also been killed by rocket or mortar fire.

Israel says the war is meant to halt the relentless rocket fire on its cities by Palestinian militants in Gaza and to destroy a sophisticated network of cross-border tunnels that Hamas is using to sneak into Israel to try to carry out attacks inside communities near the border.

Israel insists it does its utmost to prevent civilian casualties but says Hamas puts Palestinians in danger by hiding arms and fighters in civilian areas. Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum condemned the violence, saying Israel was targeting displaced people and "committing massacres."

The Palestinian Red Crescent said Israeli shells hit the U.N. compound, but Israel's chief military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Moti Almoz, said it was too early to know if the deaths were caused by an errant Israeli shell or Hamas fire. "We are not ruling out the possibility that it was Hamas fire," he said.

The military had urged the U.N. and the Red Cross to evacuate the school for three days leading up to the shelling incident, Almoz said, adding that there had been an increase in Hamas attacks from the area in recent days.

"Despite repeated calls from the military to the U.N. and international organizations to stop the shooting from there because it endangers our forces, we decided to respond."



A displaced Palestinian girl who had lost her relative in an Israeli airstrike at a U.N. school cries at Beit Hanoun hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, Thursday, July 24, 2014. Israeli tank shells hit a compound housing a U.N. school in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing more than a dozen of people and wounding dozens who were seeking shelter from fierce clashes on the streets outside, Palestinian officials said, as Israel pressed forward with its 17-day war against the territory's Hamas rulers.

(AP Photo/Adel Hana)

OH woman gets 32 years prison on forced labor

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP)

— A woman convicted along with her boyfriend of enslaving a mentally disabled woman in their Ohio home for nearly two years through intimidation, threats and abuse was sentenced Thursday to 32 years in federal prison, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Jessica Hunt, 33, was convicted in March of forced labor, conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and conspiracy to illegally obtain prescription drugs.

Her attorneys and the federal prosecutor's office didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment on the sentencing.

Hunt's boyfriend, 28-year-old Jordie Callahan, was sentenced Tuesday to 30 years in federal prison for those same charges.

"This is one of the more disturbing cases we have come across," U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach said in a statement. "These defendants richly deserve their sentences."

The couple was accused of holding the woman captive from early 2011 to late 2012. Prosecutors alleged that they threatened to harm the woman's young daughter if the woman did not do chores, shop and clean up after their pit bull dogs. The couple also used the dogs and a python to threaten the woman into complying, prosecutors said.

The couple's attorneys have argued that government witnesses were unreliable, including the victim in the case, who suffers from the effects of a traumatic brain injury suffered in a car accident. The woman had numerous opportunities to tell people she was being mistreated, including appointments at social service agencies, attorneys for Hunt and Callahan have said.

After the woman was caught stealing a candy bar in late 2012, she told police she wanted to go to jail because people were being mean to her. □

Cruz demands answers on US/Israel flight ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — A potential Republican presidential contender in 2016 vowed Thursday to continue blocking confirmation of a series of ambassadorial and other diplomatic nominees despite the Federal Aviation Administration lifting a ban on U.S. airline flights to Israel. The State Department criticized the lawmaker.

Sen. Ted Cruz said he wouldn't release the holds until the Obama administration answers his questions about the FAA's prohibition, which went into effect Tuesday after a rocket landed about a mile (2 kms) from the Tel Aviv airport. The FAA ended the ban late Wednesday, after Cruz accused Obama of imposing an economic boycott of Israel while it is fighting the militant group Hamas in Gaza.

"There are still serious questions as to the decision-making that went in to the ban on flights and whether it was driven by political consideration at the White

House or by objective expert opinion at the agency," the Texas senator said Thursday.

Cruz is demanding to know why Israel was singled out, while commercial flights can still pass over Afghani-

Crimea in April and has ruled out overflights of the east of the country since last week's crash.

Cruz also wants to see any communication between the FAA, White House and State Department to see



Sen. Ted Cruz speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. Cruz, a potential Republican presidential contender in 2016 is questioning whether President Barack Obama used a federal agency to impose an economic boycott on Israel after the FAA banned U.S. airline flights to Tel Aviv.

(AP Photo, J. Scott Applewhite)

stan, Pakistan, Yemen and Ukraine — where a Malaysia Airlines jet was downed, killing all 298 people on board. The FAA prohibited flights over Ukraine's

if the ban on landings in Tel Aviv was designed to punish Israel or advance cease-fire efforts. Almost 800 Palestinians have been killed in fighting over the

last 16 days, mostly civilians, according to Gaza health officials. Israel has lost more than 30 soldiers and at least two civilians.

For the second straight day, the suggestion of political motivation behind the flight ban drew a sharp response from the State Department. "It's just perplexing," spokeswoman Marie Harf said of Cruz's action. "The notion that he would put a hold on State Department nominees when he really has questions for the FAA just doesn't really make sense."

The objective of the flight ban "was purely security and safety of American citizens, pilots, people on these planes," she said. "The nominees we have up in the Senate are for some very critical positions. They need to move forward. If everybody's concerned about our foreign policy, we need people in those positions."

A day earlier, Harf called Cruz's comments "ridiculous and offensive." □

2 dead, dozens hurt in Virginia after fierce storms

CAPE CHARLES, Virginia

(AP) — A fierce storm packing powerful winds, large hail and rain killed two people and injured about three dozen as it flipped recreational vehicles at a U.S. campground Thursday, officials said.

A tree fell on a couple's tent, killing them, and their 13-year-old son in a tent next to them suffered life-threatening injuries. Injuries to others ranged from cuts to broken bones to more serious, Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said. The storm slammed into the Cherrystone Family Camping & RV Resort in Virginia on Thursday morning. About 1,300 people were there when the storm hit, according to the state Emergency Management Department. "All hell broke loose," said Joe Colony, who has been coming to the campground for 30 years. "We got an emergency message on a cell phone and within 30 seconds, the thing hit."

The National Weather Service had issued a tornado warning for the area.

Joe Micucci said he and

said he felt fortunate they weren't hurt.

"We saw at least five (campers) that were

man Petty Officer 3rd Class David Weydert said crews also were responding to reports of boats overturned.



Marvin Brewer hugs his mother, Marva Stratton, as they look at a large tree that fell on the roof of her home in Cheriton, Va. when a severe storm passed through the area on Thursday, July 24, 2014. Stratton was at home at the time but was not injured.

(AP Photo/Eastern Shore News, Jay Diem)

his wife couldn't escape in their car because of the hail, so they waited out the storm in their camper. He

flipped over. One was completely gone and only had its wheels left," said Micucci. Coast Guard spokes-

At least three people were pulled from the water, he said, though their conditions were unknown. □

Obama: Stop letting firms shield profits abroad

Continued from Front

He said they were renouncing their American citizenship by "cherry-picking" the nation's tax laws at the expense of ordinary taxpayers.

"These companies are cherry-picking the rules, and it damages the country's finances," he said. "It adds to the deficit.

It sticks you with the tab to make up for what they are stashing offshore."

"I don't care if it's legal - it's wrong," he said, prompting the audience to boo the companies taking advantage of the practice.

Obama called on members of Congress to close the loophole even if they disagree with his broader calls for changes to the tax system that would lower corporate rates and close several loopholes, including that one.

"You shouldn't get to call yourself an American company only when you want a handout from the American taxpayers," Obama

said.

The decision to focus on the tax loophole is part of a strategy to position Obama on the side of what White

House officials call a new economic patriotism. The president is pressing that argument as the midterm elections approach in the

fall.

But the legislative effort is unlikely to succeed in Congress, where Republicans have refused to consider the president's tax proposals.

On Thursday, Obama pointed to progress on the economic front but emphasized that more remained to be done. "I'm here to focus on one thing we should be doing, which is training more Americans to fill the jobs we've created," he said. "The job training programs can help folks who fell on hard times in the recession."

In an appearance at a Los Angeles fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee on Wednesday night, Obama criticized the Republicans for blocking efforts to improve the economy and for coming to the defense of big corporations that do not have the interest of average Americans at heart. □



A man interrupts President Barack Obama speaking, calling him the "Antichrist" during an address about jobs and the economy at the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, July 24, 2014. Obama was expected to call on Congress to end a tax loophole that allows big corporations to avoid American taxes while maintaining their presence in the United States.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

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Doctor fired back at gunman in PA hospital attack



A patient is evacuated from the scene of a shooting at the Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby, Pa. on Thursday, July 24, 2014. A prosecutor said a gunman opened fire inside the psychiatric unit leaving one hospital employee dead and a second injured before being critically wounded himself. (AP Photo)

DARBY, Pennsylvania (AP) — A doctor who was grazed by gunfire from a patient in his office at a Pennsylvania hospital on Thursday helped stop him by apparently returning fire with his own weapon and severely injuring him, but not before a caseworker was killed, authorities said.

The patient opened fire after entering the office with the caseworker, District Attorney Jack Whelan said. Witnesses reported hearing yelling before the gunshots. Several hours after the shooting, investigators had only limited information on what happened inside the

closed office but believe the doctor, a psychiatrist, "from all accounts, would have acted in self-defense," Whelan said. The doctor, who suffered a graze wound to his head, "faced a situation where his life was in jeopardy," Whelan said. The dead caseworker

was identified only as a 53-year-old woman who had entered the doctor's office with the patient before the gunfire erupted. Police said they were trying to find relatives to notify. Two guns were recovered, Whelan said. Authorities said the motive for the shooting was unknown. The patient, who was critically injured and was taken into custody, was identified as Richard Plotts, who is in his mid-30s. The prosecutor said Plotts had been involved in previous incidents with staff, but he did not know their nature. He also said he did not know if that is why the doctor had a gun or if the doctor would have been required to have a permit. After the door of the office was closed, staff members

heard loud arguing inside, opened the door and noticed the patient had a gun, Whelan said. They then closed the door and dialed the 911 emergency dispatch number. Gunshots were heard a short time later. After Plotts emerged from the office, another doctor and a caseworker helped wrestle him to the floor of the hallway and grabbed his weapon, Whelan said. By that point he had already been severely wounded from several shots, he said. The exchange of gunfire occurred on the third floor of the Wellness Center at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, a 204-bed community teaching hospital just southwest of Philadelphia. □

Witness:

Teen's plane didn't show distress

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP) — A man who saw a plane flown by a U.S. teen seconds before it crashed and killed the boy and his father during an around-the-world flight attempt said the aircraft was flying low but didn't show any obvious signs of distress before diving into the ocean off American Samoa.

Bert Thompson of Matuu, American Samoa, told The Associated Press on Thursday he saw no fire, explosions or emergency lighting on the plane carrying 17-year-old Haris Suleman and his father, 58-year-old Pakistani-born Babar Suleman.

"It just went down, dived into the ocean," said Thompson, who saw the plane while sitting at a bus stop in his shoreline village. Haris Suleman's body was recovered shortly after Tuesday's crash. Crews were still searching for his

father.

Thompson said he didn't see the plane hit the water because it was too far offshore and too dark, with no moon in the sky.

Anguished family members

said at a news conference outside the family's home. "Babar is a fighter, and I know that he's over there clinging to hope, hoping that someone will come for rescue."



Family friend Asher Khan, left, and Hiba Suleman talk with reporters Thursday, July 24, 2014, in Plainfield, Ind. Hiba Suleman's brother and father, Haris and Babar Suleman, were on a plane that crashed off American Samoa after taking off on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Doug McSchooler)

and friends pleaded for more resources Thursday in hopes of finding Babar Suleman.

"Time is of the essence," family friend Azher Khan

The U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday it had found wreckage from the plane, which crashed shortly after taking off from Pago Pago, American Samoa. □

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Across American job market, layoffs are becoming rare

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The risk of losing your job is getting smaller and smaller.

As the U.S. economy has improved and employers have regained confidence, companies have been steadily shedding fewer workers. Which is why applications for unemployment benefits have dwindled to their lowest level since February 2006 — nearly two years before the Great Recession began — the government said Thursday.

The trend means greater job security and suggests a critical turning point in the economic recovery. It raises the hope that workers' pay will finally accelerate after grinding through

a sluggish recovery for the past half-decade.

When the economy sank into recession at the end of 2007, employers cut deeply into their staffs. And then during the recovery, they hired only hesitantly. Instead, they sought to maximize the productivity of their existing employees. But in recent months, the picture has brightened. Employers have added 200,000-plus jobs for five straight months, and the unemployment rate has reached 6.1 percent, the lowest since 2008.

Now, the steadily declining level of layoffs suggests that employers may have to hire even more aggressively and raise pay if they want to expand their busi-



Job seeker U.S. Army veteran John Godman, right, talks to recruiters Nicole Rushton, left, and Megan Hogan, center, at a Hiring Fair For Veterans in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Labor Department released weekly jobless claims on Thursday, July 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)



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nesses, said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisers.

"They've been continually working their workers harder and longer," Naroff said. "As a result of that, we have consistent growth and you can't lay off people anymore."

The shortage of laid-off workers searching for jobs means that more companies may need to pay more to attract talent. Thus far, wage growth has essentially only kept pace with inflation, and household incomes remain below their 2007 levels.

Most businesses have so far been hesitant to raise wages, so there may be a lag before workers see higher paychecks.

"But when the dam breaks, it's really going to break," Naroff predicted.

Some firms say they're already dealing with wage pressures.

Cleveland-based Applied Medical Technology has

raised hourly pay for warehouse employees from \$8.25 to \$10.

It did so both to attract new hires and because it heard that some of its employees had quit for raises elsewhere, said Jeff Elliott, the company's chief financial officer.

The company also started holding pizza parties and summer cookouts.

Elliott said it's cheaper and easier to keep existing employees than to find and train new ones.

Throughout the economy, layoffs have fallen so much that the number of people seeking unemployment benefits plunged last week to a seasonally adjusted 284,000, a low last achieved in February 2006. And after accounting for U.S. population growth, the number of people applying for unemployment aid has reached its lowest point since 1999.

The four-week average of applications, which

smooths out week-to-week fluctuations, has dropped to 302,000 from 348,500 when the year began.

"In the weeks that follow," said Michelle Girard, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, "claims look likely to hold at or below the 300,000 mark."

The sharp decline has paralleled healthy monthly employment reports. Employers added a net 288,000 jobs in June, capping the first five-month stretch of gains above 200,000 since 1999 at the height of the dot-com boom.

The consensus forecast of economists is that the government will announce next week that employers added 225,000 jobs in July, according to a survey by the data firm FactSet.

Not every company is avoiding layoffs. Earlier this month, Microsoft announced that it would cut 18,000 workers — the biggest layoffs in its 39-year history. □



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US Financial Front:

Sales of new American homes plummet in June



A sign hangs in front of a new home for sale in Riverview, Fla. Sales of new U.S. homes plunged in June, the Commerce Department said Thursday, July 24, 2014, a sign that real estate continues to be a weak spot in the economy. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of new U.S. homes plunged in June, a sign that real estate continues to be a weak spot in the economy. New home sales fell 8.1 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 406,000, the

Commerce Department said Thursday. The report also revised down the May sales rate to 442,000 from 504,000. Buying of new homes fell 20 percent in the Northeast, followed by less extreme declines in the Midwest, South and West. The

modest sales caused the inventory of new homes on the market to increase to 5.8 months, the highest since October 2011. The median sales price was \$273,500, up 5.3 percent over the past 12 months. "Today's report underscores" Federal Reserve

Chair Janet Yellen's "observation in testimony last week that housing sector data still are 'disappointing,'" said Dana Saporta, director of economic research at the bank Credit Suisse. Home sales had been improving through the middle of 2013, only to stumble over the past 12 months due to a mix of rising prices, higher mortgage rates and meager wage growth. The pressures from mortgage rates have eased since the start of 2014 and the pace of price increases have slowed. Still, other indicators suggest that home-buying has stalled after rebounding from lows reached during the Great Recession.

The National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes increased 2.6 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.04 million homes. It marked the first time that sales have been above the 5 million mark since October. Economists were encouraged by the second straight monthly gain in existing home sales, though those sales are still hovering below the recent peak of 5.38 million sales hit last July. Nasty winter storms weighed on sales of both existing and new homes in late 2013 and early 2014, making it unlikely that sales can match last year's pace. □

Court tosses Chiquita terror payment claims

MIAMI (AP) — A divided U.S. appeals court on Thursday threw out claims against produce giant Chiquita Brands International made by relatives of thousands of Colombians killed during years of bloody civil war. A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that federal courts have no jurisdiction over the Colombian claims. The lawsuits accused Chiquita of assisting in the killings by paying \$1.7 million to a violent right-wing paramilitary group known as the AUC, the Spanish acronym for United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia. Chiquita, based in the U.S., formerly

operated large banana plantations in Colombia through its Banadex subsidiary. Chiquita insists it was the victim of extortion and was forced to pay the AUC or face violence directed at its employees and assets in Colombia. The majority of the appeals court panel cited a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as *Kioel vs. Royal Dutch Petroleum* that imposed limits on attempts by foreigners to use U.S. courts to seek damages against corporations for human rights abuses abroad. Chiquita had insisted that ruling meant the Colombians' lawsuit had to be tossed out.

"We are gratified that the U.S. Court of Appeals has now agreed with us and the claims have been dismissed," said Chiquita spokesman Ed Loyd in an email statement. "The decision reinforces what Chiquita has maintained from the beginning — that Chiquita is not responsible for the tragic violence that has plagued Colombia." Attorneys for the estimated 4,000 Colombians could still ask the full 11th Circuit or the Supreme Court to review the case, but otherwise their only option would be to seek damages through Colombian courts. □

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Demand lifts profit for Airlines

The Associated Press

Investing in airlines has long been the butt of jokes, especially when many U.S. carriers traipsed through bankruptcy court in the past decade.

Now riding a post-merger tide of higher fares and stable fuel costs, those same airlines are piling up profits and sharing the newfound riches with investors.

American Airlines announced Thursday that it would pay its first dividend in 34 years, and both American and United Airlines announced big plans to

pay its first dividend since 1980, a cash payout of 10 cents per share, which could cost nearly \$300 million a year.

"It is hard to believe that less than eight months ago, American was in bankruptcy yet today we are reporting record profits, prepaying debt, making additional pension contributions and declaring dividends to shareholders," CEO Doug Parker said in a letter to employees.

Dividends are common in many other industries, but few airlines pay them. Southwest has been pay-

leases.

The latest moves came as American reported net income of \$864 million in the second quarter. Excluding special charges related to taxes and bankruptcy and merger costs, the profit was \$1.5 billion, a quarterly record for American. At \$1.98 per share, it beat analysts' forecast of \$1.95 per share, according to FactSet. Revenue rose 10.2 percent as passengers paid 6.5 percent more per mile for their tickets.

United Continental Holdings Inc., created by a 2010 merger of two airlines that



Baggage carts are towed to a Southwest Airlines jet at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock, Ark., as the Boeing 737 is serviced. Southwest Airlines reported quarterly financial results on Thursday, July 24, 2014. (AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

buy back their own stock, a strategy designed to boost the value of remaining shares.

Those announcements came as American, United and Southwest reported record-setting second-quarter results, building on Delta's solid performance a day earlier.

Airlines are prospering as mergers have reduced competition, making it easier to keep prices high and raise billions from extra fees. They used bankruptcy to squeeze costs from employees and suppliers such as the smaller carriers that operate regional flights. They have benefited from stable fuel prices.

American Airlines Group Inc., the world's biggest airline company since American's December merger with US Airways, said it will

ing a dividend for more than 37 years and boosted it by 50 percent this spring. Delta Air Lines restored its dividend last year.

American also said it will spend up to \$1 billion to buy back shares through the end of 2015, and United announced a similar \$1 billion program to stretch over three years. They joined Southwest and Delta, which already buy back their own shares.

Fitch Ratings said the buy-backs could pose a risk to airlines' improving creditworthiness if the companies stop focusing on reducing debt and holding large cash reserves. Fitch said it was surprised by the size of American's buy-back plan, but it was reassured by the company's actions to prepay debt and buy out some aircraft

had both gone through bankruptcy, reported net income of \$789 million in the second quarter, topping Wall Street expectations and marking a turnaround from the first quarter, when it lost \$609 million and canceled 35,000 flights.

United has struggled with technology glitches and other issues that have left it behind other airlines in key revenue ratios, but second-quarter revenue rose 3.3 percent to \$10.33 billion, slightly higher than Wall Street forecasts, partly due to higher "ancillary revenue" from extra fees. Southwest Airlines Co. reported a record second-quarter profit of \$465 million and set records for full planes and passenger fare per mile. Revenue rose 8 percent. □

IMF cutting US and global growth forecasts for 2014

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund foresees the global economy expanding less than it had previously forecast, slowed by weaker growth in the United States, Russia and developing economies. The lending organization predicted Thursday that global growth will be 3.4 percent in 2014, below its April forecast of 3.7 percent. But the fund still expects the growth of the world's economy to accelerate a bit to 4 percent in 2015.

The downgrade of this year's estimate for the global economy reflects much slower growth in the United States. The IMF now expects just 1.7 percent U.S. growth in 2014, which would be the weakest since the recession officially ended five years ago. That's down from its April prediction of 2.8 percent, mostly because of a sharp weather-related contraction in the first quarter. The U.S. economy shrank at an annual rate of 2.9 percent in the first three months of the year.

But the IMF thinks the U.S. economy rebounded in the April-June quarter at a healthy 3.5 percent annual rate. Growth should remain above 3 percent in the second half of the year, it said in a separate report Wednesday. And it should be 3 percent for all of 2015. Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's chief economist, said the U.S. economy's recent weakness is in "the past, to a large extent."

"Looking forward, growth in the U.S. is reasonably strong," Blanchard added.

The IMF also slashed its outlook for Russia's growth to just 0.2 percent this year and 1 percent in 2015. Russia's conflict with Ukraine has caused a sharp drop in foreign investment. The IMF included its forecasts in a quarterly update to its World Economic Outlook report. The weaker growth estimates underscore the need for central banks in advanced economies in the United States and Europe to keep interest rates low, the report said. The Federal Reserve has pegged the short-term rate it controls at nearly zero for more than five years. But most economists expect the Fed to start slowly raising that rate in mid-2015.

The European Central Bank has cut its benchmark rate to 0.15 percent, a record low. It's also placed a negative rate on the deposits it holds for commercial banks to try to get them to lend more.

The IMF also stressed that much of the downgraded forecast reflects temporary factors, such as harsh winter weather and a slowdown in inventory restocking in the United States.

In China, consumer spending has declined as the government has sought to reduce lending, the IMF said. Growth in China will likely be 7.4 percent this year, down from the IMF's 7.6 percent forecast in April. It will slip further, to 7.1 percent, in 2015.

But Beijing has taken steps to support growth, such as spending more on roads and other infrastructure and cutting taxes for small businesses, the IMF said. That should bolster the Chinese economy in the second half of this year. In Brazil, higher rates have throttled business and consumer spending, the IMF said. Brazil's central bank has raised rates to try to combat inflation. The economy will expand just 1.3 percent this year, the IMF estimates, down from its previous estimate of 1.9 percent. The IMF also marked down its forecast for Brazil's economy in 2015 to 2 percent, from 2.6 percent. Mexico's economy has been held back by weakness in the United States and slower construction, the IMF said. It foresees growth of just 2.4 percent this year, down from its April estimate of 3 percent. But it should rebound in 2015, the IMF expects. □



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Dutch sending unarmed police to Ukraine crash site



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte speaks at a press conference in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday July 24, 2014. Rutte says he is sending 40 unarmed military police to eastern Ukraine as part of a ramped-up effort to find the last victims of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 still at the crash site. Rutte told The Associated Press he is sending the police not as security for the site in rebel-held territory but as "extra hands and eyes to look for remaining remains and personal belongings" of victims.

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press
THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands is sending 40 unarmed military police to eastern Ukraine as part of a ramped-up effort to find the last victims

of the downed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 still at the wreckage site, Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced late Thursday. He also is sending forensic investigators to the site to try to piece together

(AP Photo/Mike Corder)

exactly what happened when the plane was shot down a week ago, killing all 298 people on board. U.S. officials say the Boeing 777 was probably shot down by a missile from territory held by pro-Russian

rebels, likely by accident. Rutte said the military police will help the investigators. "They are really looking like the forensic experts," he said. "They will be extra hands and eyes to look for remaining remains and personal belongings." His comments Thursday came hours after two military planes carrying 74 coffins landed at a military base in the Netherlands. A day earlier, the two military transport planes — one Dutch and one Australian — brought back the first 40 coffins and more flights were planned for Friday. Thousands of people have turned out to watch the convoys of hearses drive

from the Eindhoven Air Base to a military barracks in the central city of Hilversum, where the remains will be identified by an international team of experts. The Netherlands has been given the lead in the investigation into what exactly happened to Flight 17 and is taking charge of efforts to identify the dead. This nation of 17 million was the hardest hit, with 194 of its citizens on board the plane. Rutte said he would also be sending more forensic experts to the scene in the coming days to speed up the investigation that was hampered in its early stages because it was considered too dangerous to work there. □

Ukrainian PM announces his resignation

DAVID McHUGH
Associated Press
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced his resignation Thursday, opening the way for new elections that would reflect the country's starkly changed political scene after the ouster of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich in February. Yatsenyuk, a supporter of closer ties with Europe and a key participant in the protests that toppled Yanukovich, made the announcement from the dais of Parliament after two parties said they would pull out of the governing coalition. He said Parliament could

no longer do its work and pass necessary laws. President Petro Poroshenko, elected to replace Yanukovich May 25, earlier praised the withdrawal of the two parties. He said that "all opinion polls, and direct conversations with people, show that society wants a complete rebooting of the government." Poroshenko's calls for political renewal suggests the resignation and new elections are the result of planning and political maneuvering, not chaos. Yatsenyuk took over as prime minister just short of five months ago supported by a coalition of pro-Eu-

ropean parties. They took power after Yanukovich was driven from office by months of street protests on Kiev's Independence Square, or Maidan. The protests began over Yanukovich's refusal to sign a sweeping trade deal with the European Union, but swelled to include wider grievances such as the government's attempts to suppress the protests with riot police, corruption, and lack of progress in modernizing the economy. "I think this is a fully expected and planned development," said Balazs Jarabik, visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. □

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Islamic militants seize section of Syria army base

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Fighters from the extremist Islamic State group on Thursday overran part of an army base in northern Syria, which has been under the militants' siege for months, in ferocious battles that killed or wounded dozens on both sides, activists said.

The battle over the base is the latest in the Islamic State's push to capture as much of Syrian territory as it can. Since June, the group has seized a huge chunk of territory straddling the Iraq-Syria border, where they have declared a self-styled caliphate.

The base lies in Raqqa province, where much of the territory fell to the Syrian opposition last year. Earlier this year, the Islamic State, which sided with the rebels at the start of the Syrian conflict three years ago, captured much of Raqqa and has tried to capture the base several times.

The assault on the base began around midnight on Wednesday with two suicide car bombs, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Syrian army helicopters fought back, targeting jihadi positions around the base, the activist group said.

The Observatory said 35 Islamic State fighters died and that dozens of government troops were killed or wounded, including six soldiers who were beheaded. It said both sides exchanged mortar and artillery fire. The Syrian air force carried out 12 raids around Division 17 and the nearby provincial capital of Raqqa, which is also controlled by the Islamic State, said the Local Coordination Committees, another activist group. It said army helicopters were dropping barrel bombs around the base.

Elsewhere on Thursday, Islamic State fighters stormed the headquarters of Syrian President Bashar Assad's ruling Baath party in the northeastern city of Hassakeh in the predominantly Kurdish province that carries the same name, activists said. □

Iraq elects new president as attacks kill dozens

SAMEER N. YACOB
QASSIM ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi lawmakers elected a veteran Kurdish politician on Thursday to replace long-serving Jalal Talabani as the country's new president in the latest step toward forming a new government. But a series of at-

Union of Kurdistan party led by the previous president, Talabani, accepted the position after winning two-thirds of the votes in parliament, noting the "huge security, political and economic tasks" facing the next government. Iraq is facing its worst crisis since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops amid the

border and declared a self-styled caliphate in the territory they control, imposing their harsh interpretation of Islamic law.

As Massoum was named president, the Islamic militants blew up a revered Muslim shrine in Mosul traditionally said to be the burial place of the Prophet Jonah, several residents of

damaged by the blast, they said.

The mosque was built on an archaeological site dating back to 8th century BC and is said to be the burial place of the prophet, who in stories from both the Bible and Quran is swallowed by a whale. It was renovated in the 1990's under Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein and until the June militant blitz, remained a popular destination for religious pilgrims from around the world.

In Baghdad, a double car bombing ripped through the busy commercial district of Karradah as people gathered at dusk to break their daily fast for the holy month of Ramadan, killing 21 people and wounding 33 and sending smoke billowing over the city, police and hospital officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to media.

Earlier in the day, militants fired mortar shells on an army base holding suspects facing terrorism charges in Taji, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Baghdad. As the prisoners were being evacuated by bus to prevent a jailbreak, the militants attacked with roadside bombs, igniting a gunbattle that left 52 prisoners and eight soldiers dead, the officials said, adding that another eight soldiers and seven prisoners were wounded in the gunbattle. □



Fouad Massoum speaks during a press conference in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, July 24, 2014. Kurdish politician Massoum was named Iraq's new president on Thursday. Massoum, 76, one of the founders of President Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, known as PUK, accepted the position after winning two-thirds of the votes, noting the "huge security, political and economic tasks" facing the government. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

tacks killed dozens of people and Islamic militants destroyed a Muslim shrine traditionally said to be the burial place of the Prophet Jonah, underscoring the overwhelming challenges facing the divided nation. The 76-year-old Fouad Massoum, one of the founders of the Patriotic

blitz offensive launched last month by al-Qaida breakaway Islamic State group, which captured large swaths of land in the country's west and north, including Iraq's second largest city, Mosul. The militants have also seized a huge chunk of territory straddling the Iraq-Syria

the city told The Associated Press.

The militants first ordered everyone out of the Mosque of the Prophet Yunis, or Jonah, then blew it up, the residents said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for their own safety. Several nearby houses were also

Israel swears in new president amid Gaza war

TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shimon Peres ended his term as president of Israel on Thursday — a man who symbolizes hopes for peace capping a seven-decade public career amid the brutal reality of war. Peres handed the ceremonial but high-profile presidency over to Reuven Rivlin, a legislator from the hawkish Likud Party.

Although the globe-trotting elder statesman has

made clear he has no intention to retire, few expect him to hold public office again, after a career that dates back to the 1940s and has seen him occupy almost every major government position in the land.

"I did not imagine that in the last days of my presidency I would be called upon, once more, to comfort bereaved families," Peres, 90, said in his speech at the handover ceremony. He blamed the Islamic militant group Hamas for starting the

current war by firing barrages of rockets at Israel, but also emphasized that "Israel is not the enemy of the people of Gaza."

Rivlin's theme was similar: "We are not fighting against the Palestinian people, and we are not at war with Islam," he said. "We are fighting against terrorism." In sharp contrast to Peres, however, Rivlin has long been an opponent of efforts to establish a Palestinian state. Peres spent the last days of his seven-year term consoling families of sol-

diers killed in two weeks of fighting. More than 30 have died, along with three civilians on the Israeli side and more than 700 Palestinians, most of them civilians. During his visits, Peres is seen clutching the hands of grieving mothers, wives and siblings, pressing them to remain strong.

"On the one hand he feels great satisfaction from having served Israel," said his spokeswoman, Ayelet Frisch. "On the other hand he feels sadness for these days when Israel does not know peace." □

Air Algerie jet with 116 on board crashes in Mali

BRAHIMA OUEDRAOGO

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

OUAGADOUGO, Burkina Faso (AP) — An Air Algerie jetliner carrying 116 people crashed Thursday in a rain-

carrier, disappeared from radar less than an hour after it took off from Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou for Algiers.

French fighter jets, U.N. peacekeepers and others

border of Burkina Faso near the village of Boulikessi in Mali, a Burkina Faso presidential aide said.

"We sent men, with the agreement of the Mali government, to the site,

the flight.

"They found human remains and the wreckage of the plane totally burnt and scattered," he said.

He told The Associated Press that rescuers went to the area after they had heard from a resident that he saw the plane go down 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of Malian town of Gossi.

Burkina Faso's government spokesman said the country will observe 48 hours of mourning.

Malian state television also said the debris of Flight 5017 was found in the village of Boulikessi and was found by a helicopter from Burkina Faso. Algeria's transport minister also said the wreckage had apparently been found. French officials could not confirm the discovery late Thursday.

"We found the plane by accident" near Boulikessi, said Sidi Ould Brahim, a Tuareg separatist who travelled from Mali to a refugee camp for Malians in Burkina Faso.

"The plane was burned,

there were traces of rain on the plane, and bodies were torn apart," he told AP.

Families from France to Canada and beyond had been waiting anxiously for word about the jetliner and the fate of their loved ones aboard. Nearly half of the passengers were French, many en route home from Africa.

"Everything allows us to believe this plane crashed in Mali," French President Francois Hollande said after an emergency meeting in Paris. He said the crew changed its flight path because of "particularly difficult weather conditions."

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, his face drawn and voice somber, told reporters, "If this catastrophe is confirmed, it would be a major tragedy that hits our entire nation, and many others."

The pilots had sent a final message to ask Niger air control to change its route because of heavy rain, said Burkina Faso Transport Minister Jean Bertin Ouedraogo. □



Vehicles are parked outside the Houari Boumedienne international airport near Algiers, Algeria, Thursday, July 24, 2014. An Air Algerie flight carrying 116 people crashed Thursday in a rainstorm over restive Mali, and its wreckage was found near the border of neighboring Burkina Faso — the third major international aviation disaster in a week.

(AP Photo/Sidali Djarboub)

storm over restive Mali, and its wreckage was found near the border of neighboring Burkina Faso — the third major international aviation disaster in a week. The plane, owned by Spanish company Swiftair and leased by Algeria's flagship

hunted for the wreckage of the MD-83 in the remote region, where scattered separatist violence may hamper an eventual investigation into what happened.

It was found about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the

and they found the wreckage of the plane with the help of the inhabitants of the area," said Gen. Gilbert Diendere, a close aide to Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore and head of the crisis committee set up to investigate

Pope meets woman sentenced to death

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis met privately Thursday with a Sudanese woman who refused to recant her Christian faith in the face of a death sentence, blessing the woman as she cradled her infant daughter born just weeks ago in prison.

The Vatican characterized the visit with Meriam Ibrahim, 27, her husband and their two small children as "very affectionate."

The 30-minute encounter took place just hours after the family landed at Rome's Ciampino airport, accompanied by an Italian diplomat who helped negotiate her release, and welcomed by Italy's premier, who hailed it as a "day of celebration."

Vatican spokesman the Rev.

Federico Lombardi said the pope "thanked her for her faith and courage, and she thanked him for his prayer and solidarity." Francis frequently calls attention to the suffering of those persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Lombardi said the presence of "their wonderful small children" added to the affectionate tone of the meeting. Video footage released by the Vatican shows the pope giving the family papal medals and rosaries.

Ibrahim held her sleeping infant as she stepped off the plane from Sudan, which had initially blocked

her from leaving the country even after the country's highest court overturned her death sentence in June.

An Italian diplomat carried her 18-month-old son, while her husband, Daniel Wani, who is disabled, joined them on the tarmac in a wheelchair.

Ibrahim and her family are expected to spend a few days in Rome before heading to the United States, where her husband is a citizen. Ibrahim's husband had lived in New Hampshire.

Ibrahim, whose father was Muslim but whose mother was an Orthodox Christian from Ethiopia, was sentenced to death over charges of apostasy. □



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Curacao: Official arrested in slain lawmaker probe

DANICA COTO
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A former finance minister in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao was arrested Thursday as police investigate who masterminded the 2013 killing of a prominent opposition lawmaker, authorities said.

An official with the public prosecutor's office told The Associated Press that George Jamaloodin is being interrogated. The official declined to be identified because he was not authorized to release the full name of the suspect. Police in Curacao release only the initials of those arrested.

Prosecutor Guillano Schoop said in a phone interview that police were searching several addresses linked to the 46-year-old suspect, who has not been charged.

"There are a few raids being conducted," Schoop said.

The public prosecutor's office said in a brief statement Thursday afternoon that authorities were holding the suspect for two days as the investigation continues. Officials said police confiscated several items after searching the apartment where he was arrested, as well as a hotel and commercial properties.

The arrest comes about a year after two men shot Parliament member Helmin Wiels on a public beach in broad daylight as he drank a beer, shocking many in this small island off the Venezuelan coast. Wiels was hit five times at Marie Pompoen beach, a popular place for swimming and eating. Justice Minister Nelson Navarro said at the time that Wiels had previ-

ously received threats and had security.

The 54-year-old politician was the fiery and highly influential leader of the Pueblo Soberano political party, which supports Curacao's independence. He campaigned on an anti-corruption platform during the island's 2012 elections, with his party obtaining five of 21 seats in Parliament to form a coalition government. Wiels sought complete independence for Curacao, which was part of the Netherlands Antilles until October 2010 and became a more autonomous "constituent country" of the Netherlands.

Last year, police said they had identified two suspects in Wiels' killing, including one found decapitated on the island. A man suspected in the killing of one of the suspects later hanged himself in jail. □

Ex-Venezuela intelligence chief is detained on Aruba

JOSHUA GOODMAN
DAVID MCFADDEN
Associated Press
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Authorities in Aruba announced Thursday that they arrested a close confidant of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez who was sent as that country's consul to the Caribbean island despite being sanctioned by the U.S. government on charges of drug trafficking.

Hugo Carvajal, the former head of military intelligence under Chavez, was arrested at the request of the U.S. prosecutors and is expected to appear in an Aruban court Friday.

Carvajal was one of a number of high-ranking Venezuelan military officials blacklisted by the U.S. Treasury in 2008 for allegedly providing weapons to Marxist rebels in neighboring Colombia and helping them smuggle cocaine to fund their insurgency.

Despite the charges, he remained close to power circles in Venezuela and in January was appointed consul to Aruba by Chavez's successor, Nicolas Maduro.

Venezuela condemned the arrest, calling it a "grave violation" of international law and the Vienna Convention granting diplomats immunity from arrest.

Venezuela's foreign ministry released a statement calling on the Netherlands, which manages foreign affairs for the otherwise autonomously run Aruba, to immediately free Carvajal. It warned that commercial and diplomatic ties could be affected.

There was no immediate comment from the Dutch government.

Officials in Aruba said they were initially confused about whether Carvajal had immunity since he holds a diplomatic passport from Venezuela. However, they went ahead with the detention because he had yet to receive his accreditation.

"Immunity is always linked

to a function," prosecutors' spokeswoman Ann Angela said in a phone interview. "And he does not have any function here in Aruba. He is not the consul general; therefore he has no immunity."

U.S. prosecutors now have 60 days to formalize their extradition request, Angela said.

The U.S. State Department said it does not comment on extradition matters.

Chavez was an instructor at the military academy in Caracas when Carvajal was a student there in the early 1980s.

Like many other cadets from that era, Carvajal later took up arms with Chavez in a failed 1992 coup uprising that catapulted the young tank commander to fame and set the stage for his future rise to power through the ballot box.

Carvajal appears to have been one of Chavez's main envoys to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, frequently meeting in secret with its top commanders in Venezuelan territory, according to e-mails found on the computer of a rebel leader killed in a 2008 air raid.

The U.S. government considers the FARC to be Colombia's biggest drug-trafficking organization and has indicted all of its top leaders, including some of the commanders who met with Carvajal.

A push by Venezuela to secure Carvajal's release is unlikely to faze authorities in Aruba, said Michael Sharpe, an assistant professor at New York's York College who specializes in international relations and has published on the Dutch Caribbean.

Although Aruba is located just 15 miles (24 kilometers) off Venezuela's coast, the semi-autonomous country has more ties to Washington than Caracas.

"Despite Aruba at one time being the location of one of the largest oil refineries in the world refining Venezuelan oil, this is no longer the case. □

US says Honduras could process youths seeking entry to America

FRANCES ROBLES
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
© 2014 New York Times

Hoping to stem the recent surge of migrants at the Southwest border, the Obama administration is considering whether to allow hundreds of minors and young adults from Honduras into the United States without making the dangerous trek through Mexico, according to a draft of the proposal.

If approved, the plan would direct the government to screen thousands of children and youths in Honduras to see if they can enter the United States as refugees or on emergency humanitarian grounds. It would be the first American refugee effort in a nation reachable by land to the United States, the White House said, putting the violence in Honduras on the level of humanitarian emergencies in Haiti and Vietnam, where such



Undocumented migrants climb into a truck after crossing the border from Guatemala into Mexico as they travel toward the U.S.

(Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

programs have been conducted amid war and other major crises.

Critics of the plan said it appeared to redefine the legal definition of a refugee and would only increase the flow of migration to the United States.

By moving decisions on refugee claims to Honduras, the plan is aimed at slowing the rush of minors crossing into the United States

illegally from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, which has overwhelmed the Southwest U.S. border this year. More than 45,000 unaccompanied minors from those three nations have arrived since Oct. 1, straining federal resources to the point that some agencies will exhaust their budgets by next month, the secretary of Homeland Security has said. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Tim and Debbie Comer of Trafford, Pennsylvania, Anthony and Martha Martine of Newburgh, New York, Donald and Mary Ann Fouchecourt of the Bronx, New York, Victoria Bock of Yonkers, New York, and Anthony and Donna Rizzi and their son and daughter Anthony and Victoria Rizzi of Staten Island, New York. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, restaurants and casinos, and because Aruba feels like a second home where the people are like family to them and the



Divi Phoenix is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism

Authority, together with Mrs. Avril, Mr. Marchal, Mr. Carlos Werleman and Mr. Gerrit Griffith, GM of the Divi Phoenix. □



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Join the Jolly Pirates' "Save the Reefs" efforts: Kids learn firsthand how we each can make a difference!



PALM BEACH - The underwater playground of Aruba's reefs are a joy to visitors and considered a treasure to the local population, but it also represents home and breeding sites for reef fish as well as an important part of the overall marine ecosystem. Education continues to

play a key role in helping to protect and preserve both Aruba's marine life and reefs, and Jolly Pirates are helping to head that cause with its own "Save the Reefs" Bracelet Program. Funds generated from the program recently went to sponsor school kids attendance in classes

on water safety, fish identification and responsible sailing and snorkeling. Harald Buser, who operates the Jolly Pirates excursions for more than sixteen years explains, "it's time to devote myself to this worthy cause - To raise more awareness for healthy coral reefs in Aruba Carla Cavallaro, of the Jolly Pirates designed a trio of bracelets which their snorkel and sunset sail guests are offered in exchange for a small donation. All funds raised go into educational programs and protection efforts to preserve Aruba's spectacular underwater landscapes of coral reefs." The majority of children who benefitted from the recent program happen to share an affinity with the sea as second and third generation kids of families involved in water sports. After participating in an essay contest, the kids en-

joyed instruction from Canicio Van Der Biezen, and then practiced their newly-learned skills on a sail aboard the Jolly Pirates. The program was a success through the generous contributions of many individuals, including school-teachers, boat captains, master divers and rescue workers, as well as each person who chose to donate through Jolly Pirates' Bracelet Program. "Giving back to Aruba is easy when you consider all that the island has given me," comments Carla, who watches her own son Tyler grow up with a love of the sea. "We've been blessed to find home, happiness and business success in Aruba, and it only makes sense that to do our part in ensuring we help protect the island's treasured marine environment for the next generation. It will be these kids who eventually take the

reins in helping to realize a marine park for Aruba." In exchange for a donation of only \$1.00 visitors to the Jolly Pirates gift shop at MooMba Beach receive an attractive Save the Reef bracelet. Each dollar -- 100% of the donation -- is given to the Marine Park Foundation for the Save the Reefs Programs. While guests can feel good about contributing to valuable education efforts, they can also use the bracelets as a special gift or as an Aruba souvenir. A special thank you goes to everyone who made a donation and wears the Jolly Pirates Awareness Bracelets! Each person who purchases the bracelets can feel good knowing that donations are being used well! Give the Jolly Pirates a shout at their colorful souvenir shop at MooMba Beach or call at 586-8107. □



Guests of the Week At Bugaloe Pier Bar!

PALM BEACH - This week Ryan Gallagher and Talia Defazio from Utica, New York were back in Aruba again! They enjoyed their time at the beach bar Bugaloe like they do every year.

They have been coming to Aruba for 6 years and are not planning to change

rise area, and ever since have enjoyed their Amstel Brights and mojitos at the bar. What is it they like most about Aruba as a holiday destination?

The never ending sunshine and the variety of food offered at the restaurants, they said. Like every other guest of the week Ryan



their holiday destination any time soon.

Ryan and Talia like to spend time in the sun during the day but in the evening you can always find them at the Palm Pier Bar enjoying some food and exotic cocktails.

When we asked them what their favorite menu items are the answer was: "The grouper wrap and the Bugaloe fries, for sure!"

During their first trip to Aruba they discovered the Bugaloe bar near the high

and Talia also have some great memories of Bugaloe. Talia answered, "there is never a dull moment with the Bugaloe crew." Ryan added, "I always look forward to Erik throwing ice balls from the pier when I walk up! We love everything at Bugaloe, they have the best bartenders on the island and the food is great!" It seems that we will be welcoming Ryan and Talia again at Bugaloe during their next trip to Aruba. □



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Diamonds International holds successful Lend-A-Hand Project

ORANJESTAD – As the largest jewelry retailer in the Caribbean, Diamonds International is a prominent feature in Caribbean life. The last quarter of a century has seen huge expansion from the company who has received a warm welcome in each island they have branched out to. Including Aruba where they have been part of the economy for over 16 years. Diamonds International feels it is their corporate responsibility to give back and support their islands, which is why they set-up a charity organization 'The Lend-A-Hand Projects' to do just that. Lend-A-Hand Projects is essentially a program established to help community/charity and environmental projects that need a helping hand. They offer their greatest attribute, their workforce, to worthy projects that need a few extra hand to get a job done.

Last Monday Diamonds International employees started the week showcasing their finest attribute: Teamwork. As proud participants of the third Lend-



A-Hand Project in Aruba. 17 employees of Diamonds International together with teachers and members of the parents committee donated their time to help Anglo Kleuterschool, located in Madiki, Oranjestad. The team gave the property a make-over by painting all the classroom doors in bright colors, numbering every classroom, uplifting the playground area, repainting the school logo, and designing and installing the school name at the entrance. They also organized and installed wooden shelves in the library and warehouse, and helped install a new TV in the video room. The



Lend-A-Hand crew met their biggest challenge at the sandbox, in order for this area of the schoolyard to be used they needed to install a metal fence around the perimeter of the 50 sq metre sandbox, a great task, with the final fence panels secured into place as the sun set, ensuring the children will have a safe and secure sandbox to play in when they return to school.

General Manager Wil-



liam Daly expressed "We are very proud to be able to assist in the community, the school got a well-deserved make-over and once again our employees showed their amazing team-spirit and selflessness to put their time and efforts into making a difference for others, and a big thank you to the school, teachers and members of the local community who joined us in completing this wonderful project. I know the school would want to

say a special thank you to the parents of the school-children who donated the funds needed for the materials" Diamonds International will continue with more projects over the summer, if you have a project that could benefit from the Lend-A-Hand team contact aruba@shopdi.com, or call 588-0443. To follow Diamonds International and their future projects on Facebook, please go to Diamonds International- Aruba. □



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AP Source: NFL stadium sites explored in Toronto

JOHN WAWROW
AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A Buffalo Bills prospective ownership group that includes rocker Jon Bon Jovi has conducted a feasibility study into buying the NFL franchise and building a stadium in Toronto, a person close to the situation said.

The study identified at least three potential stadium sites, two in Toronto, including one on the waterfront, and another in the suburb of Mississauga, the person told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because Bon Jovi and his partners, Larry Tanenbaum and the Rogers family, have not publicly revealed details of their plans to purchase the team.

Andy Bergmann, responsible for overseeing the Bon Jovi group's stadium plans, confirmed Thursday in an email to the AP that his company has conducted stadium studies, "but nothing related to any specific site."

"We have undertaken engineering and design studies," wrote Bergmann, co-founder of Toronto-based Wessex Capital Partners, a growth equity investment firm that specializes in architecture, design and engineering services. "All of our work has been about a generic site and whether it was more rural or urban. We are aware of potential sites in the western NY and southern Ontario region, and are in fact meeting with two Buffalo area developers next week."

Continued on page 20

The un-Armstrong?



Tour 'boss' Nibali wins Stage 18

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali crosses the finish line to win the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 145.5 kilometers (90.4 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Hautacam, Pyrenees region, France, Thursday, July 24, 2014.

Associated Press
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Taiwan sweeps U.S. in 1st day of International Crown

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland (AP) — Yani Tseng made

a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to give Taiwan a sweep of the top-seeded United States in the opening round of the International Crown on Thursday. Tseng and Phoebe Yao never trailed in a 1-up win over Stacy Lewis and Lexi Thompson. Earlier, Candie Kung and Teresa Lu beat Paula Creamer and Cristie Kerr 4 and 3.

The inaugural International Crown features 32 players from eight countries.

Each team receives two points for a win and one for a tie. The U.S. was the only team that failed to secure a point on the first day.

On Friday, the United States (0 points) will face Spain (3) in Pool A, and Taiwan (4) will take on Thailand (1). Pool B matchups are Japan (3) against South Korea (2), and Australia (2) versus Sweden (1).

Japan took the lead in Pool B with a strong performance against Sweden. Although the Japanese team of Ai Miyazato and Sakura Yokomine led from start to finish, it took a birdie on No. 18 by Yokomine to secure a



Yani Tseng, of Taiwan, follows through from the rough on the seventh hole during the first round of the International Crown golf tournament Thursday, July 24, 2014, in Owings Mills, Md.

Associated Press

2-up win over Pernilla Lindberg and Mikaela Parmlid. "That was a great start, for sure," Miyazato said. "But still a long way to go. I'm exhausted already, because I used so much energy on the golf course."

In Japan's other match, Mamiko Higa and Mika Miyazato halved with Caro-

line Hedwall and Anna Nordqvist, who trailed by two strokes with seven holes left. "We played really well, both of us, and just gave ourselves a lot of chances," Hedwall said. "Then they managed to hole a couple of more putts than we did. But we fought back really nice, and it's good to get

one point at least."

The first points of the tournament were secured by Spain against Thailand in Pool A. The duo of Carlotta Ciganda and Azahara Munoz won 3 and 2 over Pornanong Phatlum and Onnarin Sattayabanphot, and Spain's Belen Mozo and Beatriz Recari halved with

sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn.

"From the beginning we started playing really well and kept hitting fairways and greens," Munoz said. "We had many chances. We're extremely happy to get those two points."

Ciganda and Munoz were no strangers on the golf course.

"I played with Azahara lots of years when we were amateurs, then we went to school together and we played last year at the Solheim Cup," Ciganda said. "Playing today with her, we were so comfortable out there, just having fun, laughing, and making birdies." South Korea split with Australia in Pool B. After In-bee Park and So Yeon Ryu forged a 3-and-2 win over Katherine Kirk and Lindsey Wright of Australia, Karie Webb and Minjee Lee beat I.K. Kim and Na Yeon Choi 2 up. Park and Ryu both eagled the par-5 12th hole for a three-hole lead and coasted to finish.

The Webb-Lee tandem didn't lead by more than one stroke until Lee sank her fourth birdie putt on the 18th hole.



Mikhail Youzhny of Russia returns a ball to Kenny De Schepper of France during the second round match at the Suisse Open tennis tournament in Gstaad, Switzerland, Thursday, July 24, 2014.

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP)

— Top-seeded Mikhail Youzhny began his Swiss Open title defense by beating Kenny De Schepper of France 6-3, 6-4 in a second-round match on Thursday. The 19th-ranked Russian forced a single service break in each set and denied De Schepper any chances to break back. The French left-hander sent down seven aces but had

six double faults.

In the quarterfinals on Friday, Youzhny faces the player he beat in the title match last year, Robin Haase of the Netherlands. Seventh-seeded Haase had a tougher time in the Swiss mountains beating local wild card Henri Laaksonen 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Leading 5-3 in the decider, Haase had his serve broken then wasted three match

Titleholder Youzhny advances at Swiss Open

points in Laaksonen's next service game. Haase finally clinched the match on an error by the 319th-ranked Swiss.

Another wild card, Viktor Troicki of Serbia, eased into the last eight with a 6-3, 6-4 win against Andrey Golubev of Kazakhstan.

Troicki is playing his first event after serving a one-year suspension for a doping rules violation, which left him ranked No. 847.

Troicki next plays fourth-seeded Fernando Verdasco of Spain or 78th-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany. Their match was tied at 3-6, 6-3, 1-1 when rain suspended play.

Top seed Cirstea falls, Svitolina advances in Baku

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Top-seeded Sorana Cirstea of Romania took a 6-1, 6-1, 50-minute beating from Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland in the Baku Cup second round on Thursday. Cirstea, who had won all four previous matches against Voegele, held serve only once. Her service game was woeful, while Voegele got away with making only a third of her first serves, and dropping serve only once.

The Romanian, who enjoyed a career-best year in 2013 to rank 22, has reached only two quarterfinals this year, and none since February. Because of a right shoulder injury, this was Cirstea's second tour-

namment in two months.

Voegele will face Shahar Peer of Israel on Friday, hoping to pass the quarterfinals for the first time this season.

Defending champion Elina Svitolina of Ukraine, seeded No. 2, beat Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain 7-5, 6-2 and will meet Pauline Parmentier of France in the quarters. Former French Open champion Francesca Schiavone won 6-2, 7-6 (2) against Julia Glushko of Israel, who converted only two of eight break points, and lined up Kristina Mladenovic for the second time this year after the Frenchwoman overcame Donna Vekic of Croatia 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Nibali wins Stage 18, closes in on Tour victory

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

ARGELES-GAZOST, France (AP) — As his team hoped,

Vincenzo Nibali demonstrated he's the "boss" of the Tour de France. Just don't compare him to the last rider to regularly bear that sobriquet at cycling's greatest race, Lance Armstrong.

In a tour de force on Thursday, Nibali blew away the peloton on a Pyrenees ascent too tough to be rated in Stage 18, all but locking up victory when the race ends in Paris in three days. Nibali has combined racing smarts, skill at bike-handling, and powerful climbing legs to methodically piece together a lead of more than seven minutes, gaining seconds "here and there," as he put it after his fourth stage win.

That margin, if it holds, would be the second largest in 25 years: Jan Ullrich won by more than nine minutes in 1997. Armstrong won five of his seven titles from 1999 to 2005 by more than six minutes, but those victories were stripped after he was exposed as a doping cheat.

The last Italian to win the Tour was "The Pirate," Marco Pantani, in 1998. Nibali too knows about nicknames.

His family calls him Enzino. An attacking rider, he's been known as the "Shark of the Straits" in reference to the Strait of Messina off Sicily. One from his boyhood re-emerged on Thursday after the win at Hautacam resort: "Flea of the

Pyrenees" — a nod to its first bearer, Vincent Treuba of Spain, decades ago.

Alexandre Vinokourov, general manager of Nibali's Astana team, said the Kazakh squad wanted the rider to show he deserved another. "We said, 'we need to show that there's a boss,'" Vinokourov said on French TV, recalling the team's game plan before Thursday's stage. He said the stage victory was "not by chance."

But Nibali wasn't impressed by the comparisons with the disgraced Armstrong. "I came to the Tour with a good preparation and a good team. But I'm not a boss like Lance Armstrong was," he said through a translator. "Let's leave the past behind us. I'm very clear about myself."

As a "flag-bearer of anti-doping," he notes his career ascension has been gradual. He won the 2010 Spanish Vuelta and the 2013 Giro d'Italia, putting him on track to become only the sixth rider ever to win all three Grand Tours.

The Italian has worn the yellow jersey for all but two days: That was last achieved by Armstrong nine years ago.

Nibali's bid was made easier after the pre-race favorites, 2013 champion Chris Froome and two-time winner Alberto Contador, withdrew due to crash injuries. Nibali noted he was leading them when they quit, and crashes are part of cycling.

Riders tackled the famed Tourmalet pass — the high-



Stage winner Vincenzo Nibali of Italy climbs towards Hautacam after breaking away from his rivals during the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 145.5 kilometers (90.4 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Hautacam, Pyrenees region, France, Thursday, July 24, 2014.

Associated Press

est Pyrenean peak in this Tour — before heading to Hautacam on Thursday. Both climbs are among the toughest in professional cycling.

On the big, final climb, Nibali broke out of the peloton, chased down break-away riders, and rode solo in front for the last eight kilometers (five miles) uphill. The emphatic win in the 145.5-kilometer (90-mile) leg from Pau to Hautacam, where Nibali padded almost two minutes to his lead, essentially reduced

the race drama to who will join him on the podium on the Champs-Élysées.

"I didn't want to lose command. My goal was to win here," Nibali said. "The team worked really hard and this victory is for them." Thibaut Pinot and Jean-Christophe Péraud advanced their hopes to give France its first podium finisher since 1997. They each gained just under a minute on Alejandro Valverde in the final climb, bumping the Spaniard to fourth. Those three will battle it out

for the bottom two podium spots.

Friday's stage is mostly flat and unlikely to alter the top standings. Nibali's lead is so big — 7 minutes, 10 seconds ahead of Pinot, and 7:23 on Péraud — that it would take a disaster for him to lose the lead before Sunday. Valverde is just two seconds slower than Péraud.

"Everything is possible," Valverde said. "Before, I was ahead, now I'm behind, but it's very tight. I'm pretty happy." □

Fill-in Swarzak pitches Twins past Indians 3-1

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Anthony Swarzak pitched five sharp innings in a fill-in start and Oswaldo Arcia homered as the Twins beat Cleveland.

Danny Santana scored after two of his three hits for the Twins, and five relievers totaled six strikeouts over four scoreless innings. Glen Perkins finished up in the ninth for his 24th save in 27 tries.

When Kyle Gibson developed a sore back the day before, Swarzak (2-0) was summoned from the bullpen to replace him in the rotation. He threw 75 pitches and allowed just two hits and one walk while striking out three.

Trevor Bauer (4-5) finished six innings for the 11th time in 14 starts this season for the Indians.

ROYALS 2, WHITE SOX 1 CHICAGO (AP) — Mike Moustakas scored the tiebreaking run in the top of the ninth inning when White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers couldn't handle a throw home, as Kansas City beat Chicago 2-1 in the rubber game of a three-game series.

Moustakas triggered the decisive rally with a lead-off single off Zach Putnam (3-2), the last of four White Sox pitchers. Alcides Escobar bunted Moustakas



Minnesota Twins pitcher Anthony Swarzak throws against the Cleveland Indians in the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

over before Nori Aoki flared a single to center field.

Adam Eaton's strong throw beat Moustakas to the plate, but Flowers lost control of the ball when the runner slid into him.

Wade Davis (6-2) pitched a scoreless inning and Greg Holland retired the side in order in the ninth inning for his 26th save.

YANKEES 2, RANGERS 1, 5 innings

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Gardner hit a tiebreaking homer off All-Star ace

Yu Darvish as New York won the rain-shortened game called in the fifth inning under bizarre circumstances.

David Phelps (5-4) pitched out of a jam just before the storm, and Francisco Cervelli doubled twice to help the Yankees win for the fifth time in six games on a 10-game homestand. Phelps gave up five hits in his first career complete game. After a one-out triple by Leonys Martin in the fifth, the right-hander

retired Chris Gimenez on a foul popup and struck out Rougned Odor.

Play was halted with one out in the bottom of the fifth, and the game was called after a delay of 1 hour, 49 minutes. It appeared the teams were ready to resume at one point, but managers Joe Girardi and Ron Washington expressed concern about the dangers of a soft, wet field.

After much discussion, a light rain returned and the tarp was put back on the

field. Less than 10 minutes later, the game was stopped for good — giving the Yankees the victory.

Darvish (9-6) allowed four hits over 4 1-3 innings. He struck out five and walked none.

It took 13 minutes and three tries for the grounds crew to pull the soaked tarp over a drenched infield.

BLUE JAYS 6, RED SOX 4

TORONTO (AP) — Jose Bautista homered and drove in two runs, and R.A. Dickey won for the first time in three starts for Toronto.

Bautista hit an RBI double in the first inning and added a leadoff homer in the seventh, his first since July 2. David Ortiz hit a three-run homer for the Red Sox, his fourth in three games, but Boston lost its second straight after winning the previous five.

Dickey (8-10) allowed four runs and nine hits in six innings, walked one and struck out five.

Rookie Aaron Sanchez, selected from Triple-A Buffalo on Tuesday, made his debut with two perfect innings and Casey Janssen finished for his 15th save in 17 chances.

Ortiz's 455th homer tied him with Adam Dunn of the Chicago White Sox for 35th on the career list.

Ortiz's drive was his 37th at Rogers Centre, breaking

NFL Stadium

Continued from page 17

"No feasibility studies have been undertaken on any site to date."

Tanenbaum is chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which controls the NBA Raptors and NHL Maple Leafs. The Rogers family includes Edward Rogers, deputy chairman of Rogers Communications, the Toronto-based communications giant.

The Bills are being sold following the death of Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson in March.

Under terms of the team's lease with the state and county, the Bills — including Wilson's estate — are

not allowed to negotiate with anyone, who to their knowledge, has an intention of relocating the team before the end of the 2022 season, when the lease ends.

The feasibility study was commissioned about 18 months ago and overseen by an investment bank, the person said, adding that one of the stadium construction costs was between \$800 million and \$900 million.

The Bon Jovi group has not said they would relocate the team, but Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz told the AP on Wednesday that he has no doubt the group's intentions are to move the Bills to Toronto.

"It is my personal opinion

that any bid associated with the Toronto group has a long-term interest in moving the team to Toronto," Poloncarz said, while attending Bills training camp in suburban Rochester, New York.

The Bills most recently were valued by Forbes at \$870 million. They are projected to be sold for at least \$1 billion, partly because NFL teams rarely go on the market.

John Vrooman, a Vanderbilt professor who specializes in sports economics, said feasibility studies are standard practice among prospective ownership groups and there should be no immediate cause for alarm. He said such studies evaluate expected cash

flows and best- and worst-case risk factors based on location.

Vrooman projected the Bills to be valued at between \$950 million and \$1 billion in western New York, and about \$1.5 billion if they moved to Toronto and even more in Los Angeles. The Toronto group is represented by Goldman Sachs, and is one of at least 10 groups to have submitted a nondisclosure agreement form to Morgan Stanley, the banking firm overseeing the Bills sale on behalf of Wilson's estate.

Among those also listed as returning their forms are Buffalo Sabres owners Terry and Kim Pegula and New York City real estate mogul Donald Trump.

The next step comes Tuesday.

That's when prospective bidders must submit to Morgan Stanley what's called "a first letter of indication," which includes their initial and non-binding bid to purchase the team, said a person familiar with the sale process. The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the sale process is private. The person said the firm will review the bids and determine which prospective groups will be eligible to proceed to the next stage of bidding.

The list of remaining groups allowed to move forward is anticipated to be identified by the end of next week, the person said.

NL Capsules

Colon overpowers Mariners in Mets' 3-2 win

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Bartolo Colon came within seven outs of a perfect game, giving up a single to Robinson Cano with two outs in the seventh inning as the New York Mets held off a late rally to beat the Seattle Mariners 3-2 on Wednesday.

The 41-year-old Colon retired the first 20 batters he faced before Cano lined a 2-2 pitch into left field. Colon (9-8) improved to 13-1 all-time at Safeco Field.

Seattle had no answers for the rotund right-hander, who gave up two runs and three hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Taijuan Walker (1-2) walked six and struck out five in his first start in the majors since July 7.

TIGERS 11, DIAMONDBACKS 5

PHOENIX (AP) — Miguel Cabrera hit a three-run homer and Austin Jackson had a three-run double as the Tigers wore out the Diamondbacks in a slugfest.

Detroit roughed up Trevor Cahill (1-7), going up 7-0 after four innings behind

Jackson's big hit and three RBIs by Alex Avila.

Arizona clawed its way back against Anibal Sanchez (7-4), scoring three runs off him in the fifth and two more over the next two innings.

Joba Chamberlain needed one pitch to escape a jam created by Sanchez in the seventh inning and Cabrera put the Tigers up 11-5 in the eighth, hitting his 15th homer off the foul pole in left.

Didi Gregorius homered and had two RBIs for the Diamondbacks.

ROCKIES 6, NATIONALS 4

DENVER (AP) — Jorge De La Rosa struck out a season-high 11 as he pitched efficiently into the eighth inning and the wobbly Colorado bullpen held off Washington's late rally, helping the Rockies snap a seven-game.

LaTroy Hawkins got out of a bases loaded jam in the ninth to protect De La Rosa's fine effort.

De La Rosa (11-6) was one strikeout away from matching his career high set in 2009. The hard-throwing lefty allowed



New York Mets starting pitcher Bartolo Colon watches as Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano hits a single in the seventh inning to break up what had been a perfect baseball game for him, Wednesday, July 23, 2014 in Seattle.

Associated Press

two runs — one earned — before being lifted for a reliever with one out in the eighth.

Stephen Strasburg (7-8) settled in after a shaky start, giving up four runs — three of which were in the first — and nine hits over 5 1-3 innings.

BREWERS 5, REDS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Mark Reynolds homered twice as the Brewers completed a three-game sweep of the Reds.

Kyle Lohse pitched 6 2-3 innings to hand the Reds

their sixth straight loss since the All-Star break.

Lohse (11-4) walked two, struck out three and allowed four hits.

Reynolds connected on a 1-1 pitch from Reds starter Mike Leake (7-9) for his 15th home run of the season. Rickie Weeks was on with a double to start the sixth.

Reynolds' second home run came off reliever Jumbo Diaz in the eighth.

PIRATES 6, DODGERS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Harrison had two hits with

two RBIs as Pittsburgh jumped on Dan Haren early in the win.

Harrison's two-run double capped a four-run outburst in the first against Haren (8-8). Pittsburgh has won five of six since the All-Star break to move a season-high seven games over .500 (54-47).

Travis Snider added two hits, including his fifth homer, for the Pirates. Francisco Liriano (2-7) allowed one run and four hits over seven innings to pick up his first victory since May 30.

WNBA Capsules

Charles scores 31 to lift Liberty over Sparks

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tina Charles had 31 points and 15 rebounds to lead the New York Liberty to a 66-64 win against the Los Angeles Sparks on Wednesday night, spoiling the coach debut of Penny Toler.

Cappie Pondexter scored 16 points as the Liberty (9-13) snapped an eight-game road losing streak.

Charles scored on a jumper to give the Liberty a 66-62 lead and blocked Jantel Lavender on the Sparks' next possession. The Sparks pulled to 66-64 when Nneka Ogumike



Washington Mystics center Emma Meesseman (33) fights through the defense of Connecticut Sun forward Chiney Ogumike (13), left, and Sun guard/forward Katie Douglas (23) in the first half of a WNBA basketball game Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Washington, D.C. Washington defeated Connecticut 89-75.

Associated Press

scored on a baseline jumper. Plenette Pierson missed two free throws to give the Sparks a chance to win or tie, but Kristi Toliver missed a 3-point attempt and Lavender missed the putback. Ogumike led the Sparks (10-13) with 23 points and eight rebounds and Lavender had 16 points and eight rebounds. Toler was named interim coach in addition to her general manager duties Sunday after former coach Carol Ross was fired.

MYSTICS 89, SUN 75

WASHINGTON (AP) — All-Star Ivory Latta scored 23 points and Monique Currie

had 17 as the Washington Mystics returned home for a victory over the Sun.

Stefanie Dolson and Bria Hartley also scored in double figures for the Mystics (11-13), who last played a home game July 2. They then had five consecutive road games, winning three of the last four.

Chiney Ogumike had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Sun (10-15). Connecticut has lost nine of its last 11 games.

Latta's 3-pointer with 6:52 remaining during a 19-4 run gave Washington the lead for good.

Frank Lampard joins New York City FC of MLS

NEW YORK (AP) — The newest team in Major League Soccer is doing its part to fill Yankee Stadium with stars. New York City FC introduced Frank Lampard in Brooklyn on Thursday after signing the 36-year-old former Chelsea midfielder to a two-year contract.

"Why not New York? Talk about ticking all the boxes. I want to carry on challenging myself." Lampard said at a news conference. "That's a great challenge, isn't it? City of hopes and dreams. That's where you want to go to and play isn't it?"

The club owned by Manchester City of the Premier League and the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball previously signed David Villa of Atletico Madrid.

Both City and Atletico won league championships last year, meaning the expansion soccer team set to begin playing home games at the ballpark in 2015 is also bringing more champions to the Bronx than Yankee Stadium's full-time tenants have lately.

The news conference was held at Brooklyn Bridge Park, where several soccer fields share space on a pier in the East River



Frank Lampard, of England, answers a question after being introduced as a member of the MLS expansion club New York City FC, Thursday, July 24, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

across from Lower Manhattan. A couple dozen fans, many in blue Chelsea jerseys, gathered around to listen, at times cheering and getting laughs from the dais, where Lampard was flanked by club sporting director Claudio Reyna, chief business officer Tim Perneti, and coach Jason Kreis.

Lampard, who has scored 211 goals for England and Chelsea, became the latest international star to move to MLS. Most famous

was David Beckham, who joined the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2007 from Real Madrid.

"I think this is an incredibly exciting time for the league," Kreis said. Lampard is "a rare talent, one that scores a lot of goals from midfield, yet is also a disciplined defender and someone who reads the game brilliantly."

Lampard was asked about a widely reported encounter with American travelers in 2001, shortly after the

Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when he and teammates were fined following reports they were behaving drunkenly and boorishly in front of the distraught Americans.

"I was naive and a young boy at the time and I have some regrets," Lampard said. "I categorically didn't

insult anyone, set out to insult anyone, behave badly in front of Americans or in fact anyone. I've tried in the last 13 years at Chelsea to build up — well, to just be a good man really and not just be a good footballer, but a good man off the pitch. ... Unfortunately it was very much misreported at the time in England and it's actually a chance for me to finally say that."

Lampard, speaking with the skyline behind him across the river, said he "of course" plans to visit the Sept. 11 memorial.

"You visit this great city, you know what it means to New Yorkers. I think you go and pay your respects, so yes I will," he said.

Kreis said the team examined the situation and considers the matter resolved. His newest player is someone with strong feelings about New York.

"I want New Yorkers to hear that and see that," Lampard said. "It's up to me to show them here and prove the footballer I am and the person that I am." □

San Jose Earthquakes ease past Chicago Fire 5-1



Manchester City FC's Bruno Zuculini hammers in the first goal of the night while playing against Sporting Kansas City in a soccer match on Wednesday July 23, 2014, at Sporting Park in Kansas City, Kan. during an exhibition soccer match Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Kansas City, Kan.

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — Portuguese forward Yannick Djalo scored one goal and had a hand in

three others to lead the San Jose Earthquakes to a 5-1 win over the Chicago Fire in Major League Soccer on Wednesday.

The Earthquakes took a 1-0 lead just before the break when Shea Salinas ran down a long ball from Djalo along the left sideline, worked his way into the box and squeezed a shot between two defenders.

In the second half, Djalo chipped a shot over goalkeeper Sean Johnson in the 79th minute, and his pass to Chris Wondolowski started Cordell Cato's acrobatic finish in the 84th.

Atiba Harris and Wondolowski also scored for the Quakes.

Chicago's Grant Ward fired a shot off of Matt Watson's pass to make it 3-1 in the 75th minute. □

Mayweather granted promoter's license in Nevada



Floyd Mayweather talks to reporters during a news conference in New York, Monday, July 14, 2014. Mayweather will fight Marcos Maidana for the second time in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sept. 13, 2014. Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. can now organize and market fights in Nevada all on his own. The Nevada Athletic Com-

mission voted on Wednesday to grant the undefeated welterweight champion a promoter's license. The 37-year-old Mayweather

has previously worked with fight promoters Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions in his televised matchups in Las Vegas.

Boxing promoters are responsible for everything from insuring fighters against injury to paying for drug tests and hiring a ring announcer.

Mayweather Promotions CEO Leonard Ellerbe said the company knows what it takes to be successful and will continue to grow the sport of boxing, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Mayweather is a licensed promoter in Washington and New York. Ellerbe said the boxer plans to seek licenses in other states. □

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FX says overnight ratings becoming meaningless

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a rite nearly as old as television: the morning after a new show premieres, network executives wait impatiently for the Nielsen company's estimate of how many people watched, and rush to report the first sign of a hit.

Leaders at the FX network are trying something new: They're no longer talking publicly about how their programs do on opening night, believing those numbers don't accurately reflect how many people see their shows. Instead, they're waiting a few days to see how many people catch up via time shifting. Inside baseball perhaps, but also a vivid illustration of how TV viewing is changing, particularly for the scripted dramas that dominate at FX.

Less than a decade ago, the vast majority of people watched a show when a network scheduled it.

FX's "Sons of Anarchy" averaged 2.6 million viewers a week in 2006, with 2 million people watching live and another 200,000 within 24 hours, Nielsen said. Last year, each episode averaged 7.5 million viewers over a week's time, although only 3.2 million saw it "live." The rest watched on DVD, on demand, online or in FX repeats during the week.

Fully two-thirds of "Homeland" viewers on Showtime last year watched later than its first airing. The debut episode of the Fox series "Sleepy Hollow" had 10.1 million people watch live and another 10.1 million on various time shift options.

The early numbers, besides poorly representing a show's true audience, can blatantly mislead, said FX President John Landgraf.



This image released by FX shows Mia Maestro as Nora Martinez, left, and Corey Stoll as Ephraim Goodweather in a scene from "The Strain."

For his network's "Tyrant," overnight ratings showed that 13 percent fewer young viewers watched the second episode as watched the premiere. But when Nielsen's numbers for viewing over three full days came in, viewership was actually up 9 percent. It gets under CBS' skin when NBC touts "America's Got Talent" as summer's most popular network show. That may be true in the overnight numbers, but CBS shows "Under the Dome" and "Extant" surpass it when time-shifted viewing is taken into account, said CBS research chief David Poltrack. Reality shows, sports and news are most commonly

watched when they air. Besides the overnight numbers, Nielsen measures how many people watch a show within three days of its first airing, and within a week. Landgraf said it's fairer to make judgments on a show after three days. FX bases its advertising sales on how many people watch a show's commercials within three days. Landgraf said he hoped other networks follow his lead. He realizes his stance is risky. Even if FX doesn't report its overnight numbers, other networks know them and can tell the world. "It gives our competition ... the opportunity to do mischief," he said. "Are we all going to slit each other's

throats? Are we like rats in a cage, or are we going to recognize the fact that the consumer is changing the way he or she consumes our content?" Landgraf said he waited to take his stand until after the premiere of "The Strain," which is one of the biggest initial hits in the network's history, so people wouldn't question his motives. "The Strain" did very well in the overnight numbers with 2.99 million and increased to 4.73 million within three days. Robert Seidman, co-founder of the TV by the Numbers website, said FX's move is partly a publicity stunt. Overnight numbers still solidly represent

how one program is doing against a competitor. For a cable network like FX, the value in promoting how many people watch a program over time comes when negotiating with cable or satellite providers over how much money they will pay to carry a network. Even if Landgraf won't talk about the overnight numbers, Seidman said people shouldn't make the mistake of thinking he isn't paying attention. "Whatever they say, whenever they get into the office the day after a premiere, they're looking at the first shred of numbers that are available," he said. □

Wall Street Wrap: Stocks end day where they began

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Only Wall Street could make the buying and selling of more

at RBC Global Asset Management.

Facebook's stock rose 5 percent while Caterpillar's fell 3 percent after the

fore, the S&P 500 closed at 1,987.01.



Trader Michael Iozzi works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Major U.S. stock indexes ended roughly where they began Thursday, despite investors having to work through abusable day of corporate earnings and two economic reports.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

than 3 billion shares look like nothing happened.

Major U.S. stock indexes ended roughly where they began Thursday, despite investors having to work through abusable day of corporate earnings and two economic reports.

Underneath the flat surface, there was a lot of movement in individual companies.

"It's a stock-specific market right now," said Ryan Larson, head of equity trading

companies each reported quarterly results.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged down 2.83 points, or 0.02 percent, to close at 17,083.80.

It was the fourth-smallest point move in the blue chips this year. The Nasdaq fell 1.59 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,472.11.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index managed to rise 0.97 of a point, or 0.05 percent, to 1,987.98 — a record, though barely. The day be-

Three billion shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, a quieter-than-average day.

Facebook rose \$3.69 to \$74.98 after announcing a profit that trounced investors' expectations. The company reported an adjusted profit of 42 cents per share versus the 33 cents analysts were looking for, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research. □

Roche Holding posts 7 percent profit drop

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss drug-maker Roche Holding AG on Thursday posted a net profit drop of 7 percent compared with a year ago, weighed down by a strong Swiss franc and charges from one of its diagnostic units.

The world's biggest manufacturer of cancer drugs, which reports earnings every six months, said it had 5.64 billion Swiss francs (\$6.25 billion) in net income from April to June, down

from 6.05 billion francs in the comparable period of 2013.

The company based in Basel, Switzerland, said its first-half sales were 22.97 billion francs, down 1 percent from a year ago.

It reported impairment charges of 414 million francs in tissue diagnostics and said the Swiss franc was stronger against most currencies in the first half of the year, particularly against the dollar, the yen and several Latin American currencies.

"The overall impact is strongly negative on the results expressed in Swiss francs compared to constant exchange rates, with a 6-8 percentage point impact on sales," the company reported.

In a statement, Chief Executive Severin Schwan described the company's first half as "good," driven mainly by its cancer medicines, especially new breast cancer treatments Perjeta and Kadcyla, and by its diagnostics products. This month, □

GM profits for 2Q fall 85% on \$1.5 billion recall costs

DETROIT (AP) — Recall expenses chopped \$1.5 billion from General Motors' bottom line in the second quarter, as it added up the costs of repairs for nearly 30 million cars and set aside funds to compensate victims of small-car crashes.

The automaker, which is in the midst of the largest spate of recalls in its history, posted a net profit of \$190 million, or 11 cents per share. A year ago GM made \$1.26 billion, or 75 cents per share. Without one-time items GM would have made 58 cents per share, equaling Wall Street's expectations, according to data provider FactSet.

So far this year GM has recalled almost 30 million vehicles, surpassing the company's annual record.

GM took two pretax charges tied to the recalls: \$400 million to compensate victims of ignition-switch related crashes and \$874 million to account for recall expenses during the next 10 years. It also booked \$1.2 billion in expenses for recalls announced during the quarter. The after-tax impact of those items was \$1.5 billion.

GM's safety problems began earlier this year with the recall of 2.6 million small cars with faulty ignition switches. The company has admitted knowing about the problem for more than 10 years, yet it didn't issue any recalls until now. GM says at least 13 people have died in crashes caused by the switches, although lawmakers say the total is closer to 100.

The \$400 million will fund a compensation plan for families of those killed and people injured in crashes caused by the switches. It's being administered by compensation expert Kenneth Feinberg.

Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said the figure is an estimated total cost based on outside actuarial calculations, but it could go as high as \$600 million. He said there is no cap on the size of the fund.

"At the end of the day, the ultimate cost of this will be determined by Ken Feinberg," Stevens said.

GM has "substantially cleared" a companywide safety review that looked for lingering unaddressed problems, Stevens said. GM has announced 60 recalls totaling just under 30 million vehicles so far this year. Stevens expects that going forward, GM will spend slightly more on recalls than normal. As a comparison, the company spent \$100 million on recalls in North America in the second quarter of last year.

So far, company sales haven't been severely hurt by the recalls. In one way, they've benefited. Stevens said GM has sold about 6,600 cars by offering employee pricing to owners of recalled small cars such as the Chevrolet Cobalt and Saturn Ion.

Revenue was up 1.3 percent for the quarter to \$39.6 billion, about \$300 million below analysts' estimates. Stevens said GM's core business, led by North America and China, performed well during the quarter. Without recall expenses, he said, the company would have made \$1.02 per share. The company reported a \$1.4 billion pretax profit in North America, led by higher prices for pickup trucks and new large SUVs. Still, that was down almost 30 percent from a year ago.

Pretax profits were up 36 percent at GM's International Operations including China, to \$315 million. But South America reported an \$81 million loss, and GM's European loss widened by almost \$200 million to \$305 million on uncertainty in Russia. The company also had \$200 million in restructuring costs associated with the pending closure of a factory in Bochum, Germany. □

Caterpillar 2Q income rose 4.1%, revenue declines

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Caterpillar's second-quarter net income rose 4.1 percent even as revenue slipped. The construction equipment company's adjusted profit topped Wall Street's view, but revenue fell short. It also boosted its full-year earnings forecast. Caterpillar — which also makes power systems that include large electrical generators and locomotive engines — earned

\$999 million, or \$1.57 per share, in the quarter. A year earlier it earned \$960 million, or \$1.45 per share. Removing restructuring costs, earnings were \$1.69 per share. Analysts polled by FactSet predicted \$1.51 per share. Revenue for the Peoria, Ill., company dropped 3.2 percent to \$14.15 billion from \$14.62 billion. Wall Street expected \$14.45 billion in revenue.

Caterpillar Inc.'s stock fell \$1.97, or 1.8 percent, to \$106.41 in premarket trading Thursday about an hour ahead of the market open. The company dealt with softer sales in its resource industries segment, as there was lower demand for mining equipment. Sales fell in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. This was somewhat offset by higher sales in North

America. Sales for Europe, the Middle East and Africa were basically flat. Looking ahead, Caterpillar now anticipates a 2014 adjusted profit of \$6.20 per share, up from a previous outlook of \$6.10 per share. Analysts foresee \$6.18 per share. The company also narrowed its revenue guidance for the year. Caterpillar now expects revenue in a range of \$54 billion to \$56

billion. Previously it predicted revenue between \$53.2 billion and \$58.8 billion. Wall Street is calling for \$56.16 billion in revenue. Caterpillar plans to buy back about \$2.5 billion shares in the third quarter. The stock repurchase is part of a \$10 billion buy-back program approved by its board in the first quarter. Caterpillar repurchased about \$1.7 billion shares in the first quarter. □

LG Electronics says 2Q profit more than doubled

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— LG Electronics Inc. reported a forecast-beating quarterly profit Thursday and gave an upbeat outlook for smartphone profitability as its mobile division ended a streak of losses. Like other South Korean exporters, LG Electronics said the strength of the country's currency, the won, eroded its overseas profits. Still, the company's profit was better than expected as smartphone sales jumped to a record high and TV sales recovered ahead of the World Cup. LG executives said solid sales of handset devices will help its mobile division stay profitable during the fall and winter, even as Apple Inc. is expected to unveil a bigger iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co. is likely to release new models.

"Even if we spend more on marketing expenses, profitability is expected to improve," chief financial officer David Jung told investors.

The South Korean consumer electronics company said its net income for the April-June quarter was 411.8 billion won (\$400 million), compared with 155.5 billion won a year earlier. The figure was more than a fourfold increase from the first quarter and also beat expectations. Analysts polled by financial data provider FactSet forecast 300.9 billion won income. Operating profit rose 27 percent to 606.2 billion won while sales inched up 1 percent to 15.4 trillion won.

LG said its mobile division was profitable for the first time in a year thanks to strong sales of its flagship G3 smartphones and cheaper L-series phones in North America.

It sold a record 14.5 million smartphones during the latest quarter. About one third of those were devices that run on advanced wireless networks known as LTE, which were more profitable for the handset maker.

LG brought forward the global release dates of its

new phones as part of efforts to turn around the performance of its smartphone business.

The G3 smartphone was launched in South Korea at the end of May. Four major

carriers in the U.S. began selling the Android-based smartphone last week after its rollout in Asia, Europe and Latin America.



Models pose with LG Electronics' new G3 smartphones during its unveiling ceremony in Seoul, South Korea. LG Electronics Inc. reported a forecast-beating quarterly profit Thursday and gave an upbeat outlook for smartphone profitability as its mobile division ended a streak of losses.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

carriers in the U.S. began selling the Android-based smartphone last week after its rollout in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Yoo Bu-hyun, head of financial planning at LG's mobile division, said mobile carriers in the U.S. have responded very positively to

LG's mobile division suffered losses during the second half of last year as it boosted marketing costs to burnish its brand and attract consumers from Samsung and Apple. LG expressed confidence Thursday that its smartphone business will remain

profitable.

The recovery comes as Samsung Electronics is expected to report poor financial results as the explosive growth of its smartphone sales slows.

LG also expanded its lineup of both cheaper phones and high-end handsets such as the G-Pro smartphone series that features a giant screen.

LG Electronics has tried to differentiate its products from those of Apple and Samsung Electronics, which capture most of the profit in the global smartphone market.

The G3 features a 5.5-inch display screen that packs more pixels per inch than other leading phones. LG also introduced design changes in its mobile devices, such as moving the power and volume buttons to the back of its phones.

On the television front, the world's second-largest TV maker plans to roll out a new model later this year featuring an advanced display called OLED, which provides rich and vivid colors. □

3M second-quarter profit rises strong 6 percent

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — 3M's second-quarter profit jumped 6 percent as sales surged across all its businesses.

The maker of Post-it notes, industrial coatings and ceramics posted net income of \$1.27 billion, or \$1.91 per share, in the quarter ending June 30, compared with \$1.2 billion, or \$1.71 per share, in the same quarter a year

ago.

The profit matched Wall Street expectations and the company's revenue, which rose 4.9 percent to \$8.13 billion, edged out most analyst projections, according to a poll by FactSet.

"Organic sales growth was again positive across all businesses and geographic regions which helped drive double-digit

growth in earnings per share," said Chairman and CEO Inge Thulin. "Strong productivity fueled increased growth investments, and operating margins increased year-on-year to nearly 23 percent."

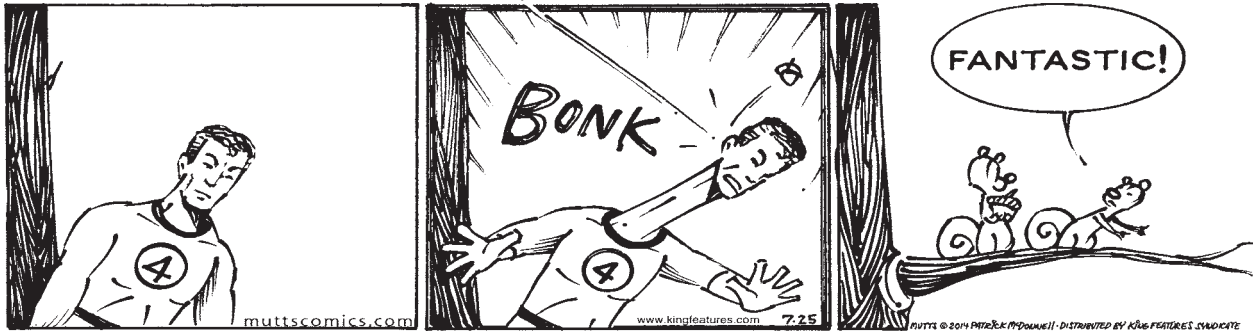
At its industrial unit, which makes auto and aircraft parts, revenue rose 4.9 percent to \$2.8 billion. It rose 4.1 percent to \$1.5

billion at its safety and graphics business, 6.2 percent to \$1.4 billion at its electronics and energy unit, 5.9 percent to \$1.4 billion at its health care business and increased 3.7 percent to \$1.1 billion at its business that makes Scotch tape, Post-its and other consumer products. The St. Paul company stuck by its full-year projection for per-share earn-

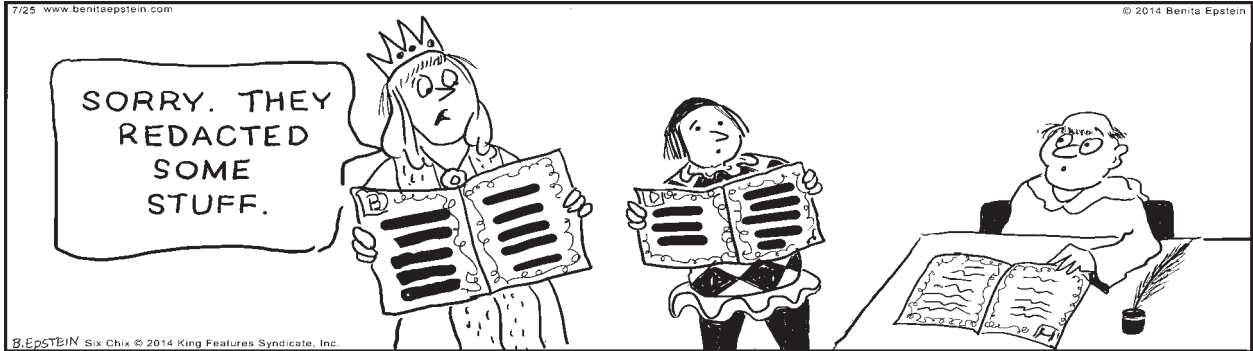
ings of between \$7.30 and \$7.55, and an increasing in revenue of between rise 3 percent and 6 percent. Wall Street is expecting earnings of \$7.47 per share and a 4 percent hike in revenue.

Before the opening bell, shares of 3M Co. rose \$1.42 to \$146.10. That would be within 15 cents of its all-time high if it carries over to regular trading. □

Mutts



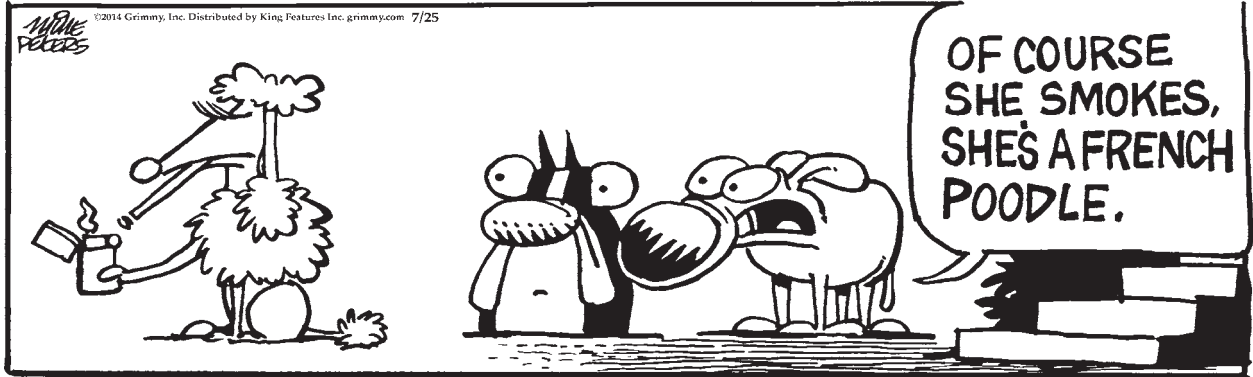
6 Chix



Blondie



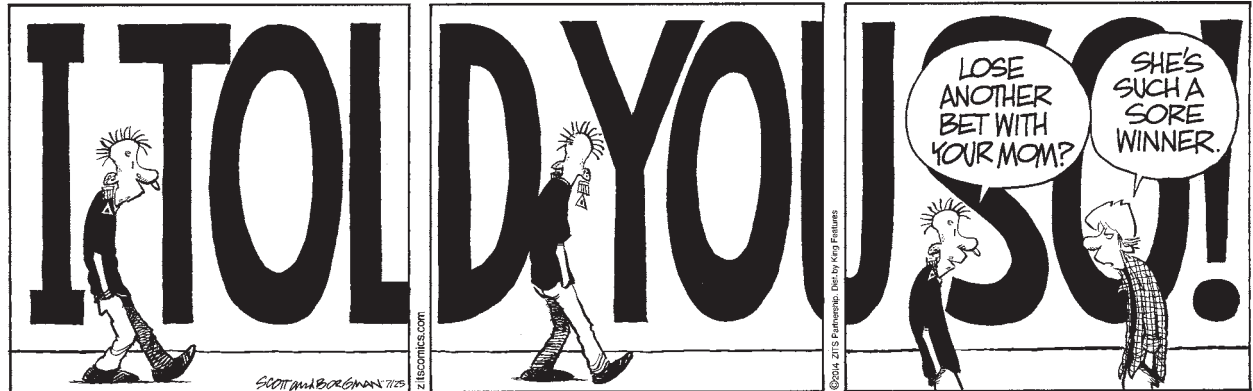
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | | | | | | 6 |
| 2 | | 5 | 1 | | | 8 | | |
| 1 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | |
| | | | | 5 | 9 | | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | | | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| | | 7 | | | 5 | | | 2 |
| | | 4 | | | 6 | 1 | | 9 |
| 3 | | | | | | | 4 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 |

ACROSS

- 1 Chimp or gorilla
4 Mea __; guilty one's phrase
9 Anklet
13 __ the way; be a pioneer
15 Approximately
16 Wheel support
17 Shoestring
18 Perch
19 Thin; slender
20 Very small long-haired dog
22 Jillian & Curry
23 Elevator
24 Aries the __; Zodiac sign
26 Peaceful
29 Checks for retirees
34 Actor __ Gable
35 __ over; reads intently
36 Pigeon's cry
37 Cleaning cloths
38 Word of apology
39 Purina Dog __
40 Supped
41 Thin openings
42 Canada's migratory birds
43 Street vendors
45 Burned
46 Certain vote
47 Mineral springs
48 Give a heads up to
51 Mainly
56 Actor Baldwin
57 Sea duck with soft down
58 Lunchtime
60 Tiny bit of land in the sea
61 __ the dice; takes a risk
62 Music's Lady __
63 Playthings
64 In __; chic
65 __ on; apply, as makeup

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | | | 14 | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | |
| | 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | 22 | | | |
| | | | | 23 | | | | | 24 | 25 | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | 29 | 30 | | | | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| 34 | | | | | 35 | | | | | | 36 | | |
| 37 | | | | | 38 | | | | | | 39 | | |
| 40 | | | | 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | |
| 43 | | | 44 | | | | | | 45 | | | | |
| | | | | | 46 | | | | 47 | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | | | | 51 | 52 | 53 | | | 54 | 55 | |
| 56 | | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | 59 |
| 60 | | | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | | |
| 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | | |

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/25/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| ROAD | FOALS | SIAM |
| AXLE | OWLET | ANNE |
| GEMS | UNITE | TIDE |
| ENSIGNS | HABITAT | |
| | ROD | PALER |
| FILET | PAL | GEARS |
| AVID | DON | TISSUE |
| BIN | MADISON | TIN |
| LEEWAY | CON | HENS |
| ESSAY | SKY | DIRGE |
| | TODAY | PUB |
| MINERAL | TABASCO | |
| ODOR | RIDER | CHOW |
| BLUE | EVENT | HIRE |
| SEND | SANDY | INNS |

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7/25/14

DOWN

- 1 Everybody

- 2 Ring out
3 Every one
4 Wine container
5 German sub
6 In the __; kept aware of things
7 Face, slangily
8 Lawyer
9 Cured sausage
10 Plow animals
11 Extended family group
12 Mattel's boy dolls
14 Drug sellers
21 Go underwater
25 Burro
26 Unwanted bit
27 Fill with joy
28 Became furious
29 Harbor towns
30 Miscalculates
31 Brownish yellow
32 Lasso's loop
33 Planted
35 Impoverished
38 Slumberers
39 Stopping

- 41 Underhanded
42 Equipment
44 Waltz & twist
45 Few and far between
47 One of the five senses
48 Cool one's heels
49 Additionally
50 Depend
52 Public uprising
53 In a lazy way
54 Put cargo on a train, e.g.
55 Meditative exercise
59 Capture

US man gets 3½ years prison for stealing a violin

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A U.S. man who provided the stun gun used in the theft of a \$5 million Stradivarius violin in January was sentenced Thursday to 3½ years in prison.

Universal K. Allah, 37, pleaded guilty in May to being party to felony robbery, a charge with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

His attorney and family asked for leniency, noting that Allah loaned the weapon but didn't participate in the attack.

Judge Dennis Moroney was not moved. He told Allah that being party to the crime makes him just as culpable as the man who carried out the attack, especially since Allah knew his acquaintance planned to use the weapon to steal a rare musical instrument.

"You knew what was going on. You knew he was not capable of getting a gun, he wasn't eligible to get a gun. Yet you helped him get armament to hurt another human being," Moroney said.

The instrument, which is almost 300 years old, was missing for nine days before police recovered it in good condition. Moroney said the crime was an attack not only on the concertmaster from whom it was taken but on the Milwaukee community.

Before sentencing, Allah apologized to the court, the violin's owner and the concertmaster to whom it had been loaned.

"I just want to humbly apologize to you for making this mistake," Allah said. "This is a total setback within my life.

I plan on changing my life, changing everything from this point on."

Moroney seemed more influenced by the statement of Frank Almond, the concertmaster who was attacked with the stun gun Jan. 27 after he finished a musical performance. Almond said he wasn't seeking revenge or retribution, but that a severe penalty was "critical."

Classifieds



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Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27,500
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51
OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV
\$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean

club

GOLD Season
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2B Oceanfront \$14500
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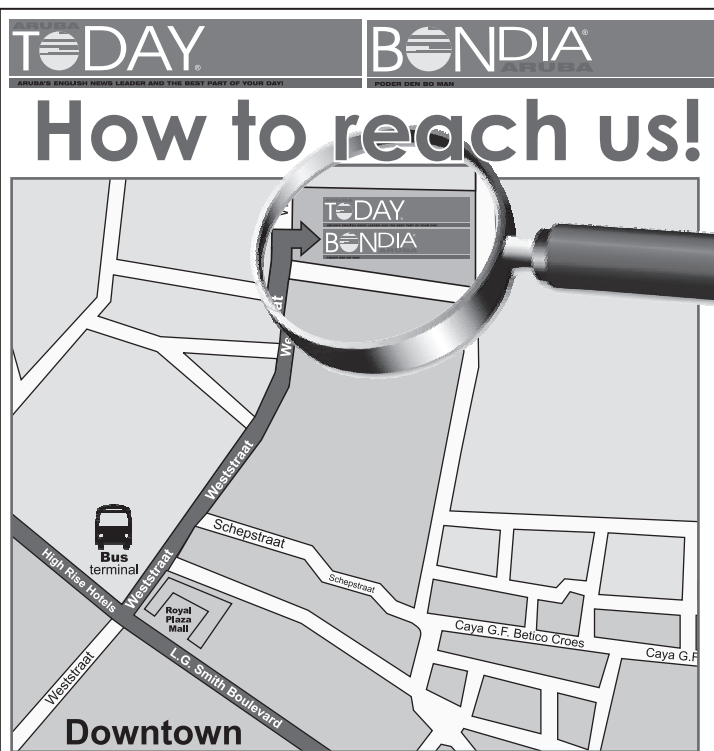
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maids room 27m². This
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West U.S. cave with fossil secrets to be excavated

CHEYENNE, Wyoming (AP)

— For the first time in three decades, paleontologists are about to revisit one of North America's most remarkable troves of ancient fossils: The bones of tens of thousands of animals piled at the bottom of a sinkhole-type cave.

Natural Trap Cave in Wyoming is 85 feet (25 meters) deep and almost impossible to see until you're standing right next to it. Over tens of thousands of years, many, many animals — including now-extinct mammoths, short-faced bears, American lions and American cheetahs — shared the misfortune of not noticing the 15-foot-wide (4 meters) opening until they were plunging to their deaths.

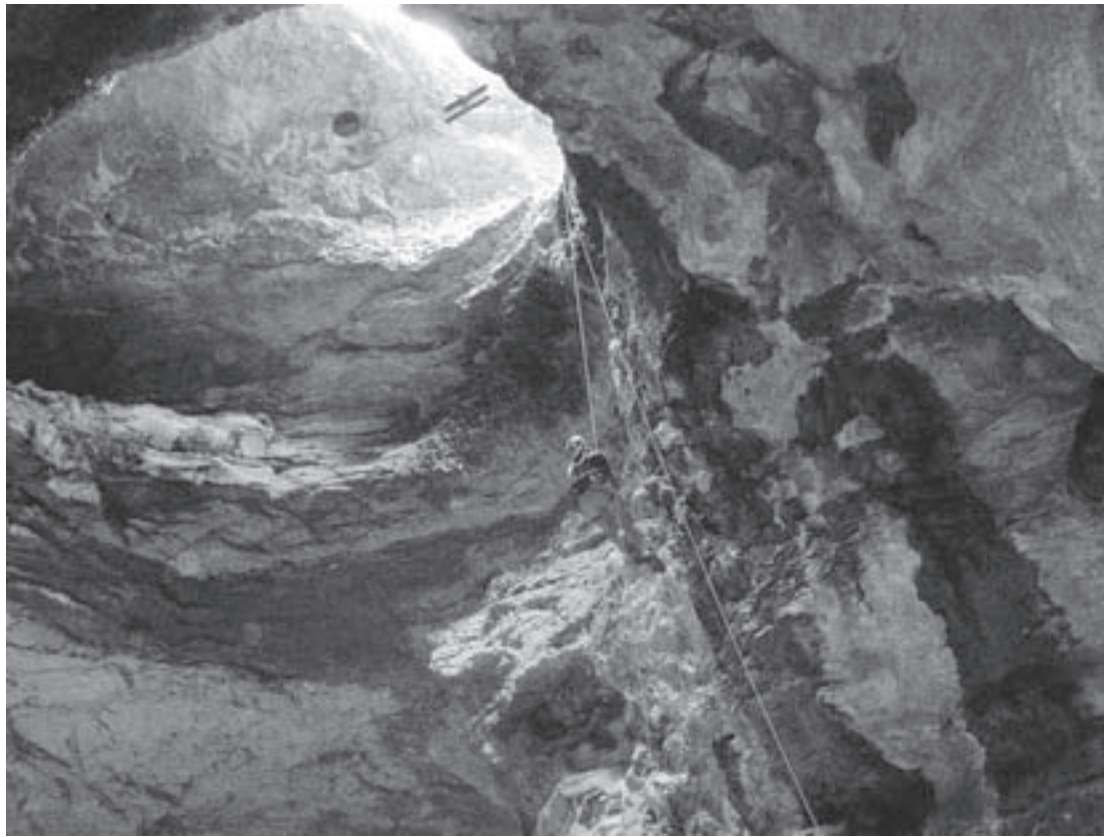
Now, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is preparing to reopen a metal grate over the opening to offer scientists what may be their best look yet at the variety of critters that roamed the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains during the planet's last glacial period around 25,000 years ago.

Paleontologist Julie Meachen said she has been getting ready to lead the international team of a dozen researchers and assistants by hitting the climbing gym.

"I'm pretty terrified," Meachen admitted Wednesday.

She hasn't done any real climbing before, she said, and the only way in is to rappel down. The only way out is an eight-story, single-rope climb all the way back up.

The cave is perpetually cold and clammy, with temperatures in the mid-



In an image provided by the Bureau of Land Management, date not known, Bureau of Land Management cave specialist Bryan McKenzie rappels into Natural Trap Cave in north-central Wyoming during a cleanup expedition.

40s Fahrenheit (about 5 degrees Celsius) and humidity around 98 percent. Even the Bureau of Land Management paleontologist Brent Breithaupt, who isn't one to fear lots of animal bones, describes the hole as a tad creepy.

"One can only hope that, as a researcher, you're able to leave," said Breithaupt, who visited the cave as a college student the last time it was open to scientists. "It's an imposing hole in the ground. But one that actually has very important scientific value." Some mammal remains from the cave could be over 100,000 years old, Breithaupt said.

The remote site is exceptionally well preserved. It's far too challenging and dangerous to have been trampled in by casual

spelunkers. The Bureau of Land Management installed the grate to keep people and animals out in the 1970s.

A mound of dirt and rock containing layer upon layer of animal bones rises from the floor of the 120-foot-wide (36 meters), bell-shaped chamber. Meachen hopes the remains are sufficiently preserved in the cold, sheltered environment to contain snippets of genetic information.

Co-investigator Alan Cooper with the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide will attempt to retrieve fragments of mitochondrial DNA from the bones, Meachen said.

Such analysis wasn't possible the last time scientists dug in the cave and could shed light on how the animals were related to their modern counterparts and each other.

"It's so cold all year long, that it has got just the per-

fect conditions for preserving DNA, in multiple species, in large numbers of individuals," Meachen said. "Which is not really found anywhere except Siberia and the Arctic."

Starting Monday, scientists plan to re-explore the cavern, dig and extract as many fossils over a two-week period as possible. The researchers will dig by lights powered by a generator at the surface.

A National Science Foundation grant will enable additional excavations in 2015 and 2016.

One goal is to learn more about the Pleistocene extinction, which wiped out dozens of species. Proposed causes include climate change and hunting by the first humans to arrive in northern North America. The scrubby, rocky country surrounding the cave probably looks much like it did back then, though the climate may have been cooler and wetter, Meachen said.

The scientists will camp out nearby and plan to make the arduous climb into and out of the cave no more than once a day. Ropes will haul bones up top in boxes, Meachen said.

"I don't think it's necessarily going to be easy," she said. "But I think we're going to be pretty well prepared."

Associated Press

Satellites show big U.S. Southwest groundwater loss

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Groundwater losses from the Colorado River basin appear massive enough to challenge long-term water supplies for the seven U.S. states and parts of Mexico that it serves, according to a new study released Thursday that used NASA satellites.

Researchers from NASA and the University of California, Irvine say their study is the first to quantify how much groundwater people in the West are using during the region's current drought.

Stephanie Castle, the study's lead author and a water resource specialist at the University of California, Irvine, called the extent of the groundwater depletion "shocking."

"We didn't realize the magnitude of how much water we actually depleted" in the West, Castle said.

Since 2004, researchers said, the Colorado River basin — the largest in the Southwest — has lost 53 million acre feet, or 17 trillion gallons (64 trillion liters), of

water. That's enough to supply more than 50 million households for a year.

Three-fourths of those losses were groundwater, the study found.

Unlike reservoirs and other above-ground water, groundwater sources can become so depleted that they may never refill, Castle said. For California and other western states, the groundwater depletion is drawing down the reserves that protect consumers, farmers and ecosystems in times of drought.



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Bing Crosby's kids recall dad's duet with David Bowie

From left, Mary Crosby, Nathaniel Crosby, Kathryn Crosby, and Harry Crosby speak on stage during the American Masters "Bing Crosby: Rediscovered" panel at the PBS 2014 Summer TCA held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — David Bowie's duet with Bing Crosby on the entertainer's 1977 Christmas television special left an indelible impression on Crosby's teenage children. Harry, Mary and Nathaniel Crosby were on set when Bowie arrived to tape his appearance. The mash-up between the cardigan-clad singer known for "White Christmas" and the glam rocker who was in his Ziggy Stardust phase required some last-minute reworking of "The Little Drummer Boy." The result was a new melody and lyrics called "Peace on Earth." The duet remains a holiday staple and a curiosity. Bowie was 30 and Crosby was 73 at the time. Crosby died of a heart attack a month after the taping in September 1977.

Mary Crosby remembered Bowie arriving on set. "The doors opened and David walked in with his wife. They were both wearing full-length mink coats, they have matching full makeup and their hair was bright red," she told the summer TV critics' tour Wednesday. "We were thinking, 'Oh my god.'" Nathaniel Crosby added, "It almost didn't happen. I think the producers told him to take the lipstick off and take the earring out. It was just incredible to see the contrast." Watching in the wings, the Crosby kids noticed a transformation. "They sat at the piano and David was a little nervous," Mary Crosby recalled. "Dad realized David was this amazing musician, and David realized Dad was an amazing musician. □

Dwayne Johnson holds surprise 'Hercules' screening

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hercules came to Comic-Con. Dwayne Johnson has made an unannounced appearance inside the San Diego Convention Center's largest exhibition hall. He slapped high-fives with fans Thursday and announced a free, advanced

screening of his latest movie, "Hercules." Johnson, who plays the title character in the film, said he booked three San Diego theaters for the special screening and invited everyone in the exhibition hall. "Hercules" opens Friday. □

Clapton says thank you to JJ Cale with 'The Breeze'

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — For Eric Clapton, the early 1970s were filled with drug addiction, personal difficulties and growing dissatisfaction with music. Singer-songwriter JJ Cale rescued him and gave him a direction, though the man known as the main architect of the highly influential Tulsa Sound didn't know Clapton at the time. "I went into that dark period in my life and was just absent, and about that time some of JJ's early stuff was coming out," the 69-year-old rock musician said. " ... I definitely was trying to shake off this guitar legend thing, which I thought was so plebian. It was such a pedestrian way of looking at things. I didn't want anything to do with that. I didn't want anything to do with this heavy metal (expletive) that was going on. I can't stand the noise. I wanted to kind of see the virtuosity, I wanted to get back to fundamentals, and he was a fundamentalist for sure. And so he was my beacon." Cale died a year ago this week at 74. Though he didn't have a major hit as a performer, he wrote some of rock 'n' roll's most identifiable songs. Lynyrd Skynyrd had one of its biggest hits with "Call Me the Breeze," and Clapton took both "After Midnight" and "Cocaine" to No. 1. Cale's music continues to inspire and push Clapton in powerful ways, something



This April 14, 2013 file photo shows Eric Clapton performing at Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival 2013 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

Clapton marks with the release this week of "The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale," a 16-track thesis study in Cale's career. Clapton was struck by the idea on a 12-hour flight to Cale's funeral, and planned it out in a burst of inspiration. He thought he'd do the album for himself, and if he never released it, so be it. But he met Dick White, one of the first band leaders to hire Cale, at the funeral and invited him to record a song. Once White was onboard, Clapton decided to open it up to other friends, and brought in Willie Nelson, Tom Petty, Mark Knopfler and John Mayer with drummer Jim Keltner and bassist Nathan East serving as the rhythm section. All were influenced by Cale's distinctive sound in

some way or another. "All through the '70s it was JJ, it was Bob Marley, it was Stevie Wonder," Clapton said in a phone interview. "Those were the places where I knew there was safe, real, creative stuff, and for me out of those guys he was the one I felt I could come closest to if I wanted to follow that trail." Cale's sound — a deceptively simple shuffle imbued with an irresistible driving groove hammered together at a cultural crossroads where rock, country, blues and jazz cohabitated peacefully — is easily identifiable. A knowledgeable listener can hear his sonic fingerprints all over modern rock 'n' roll. Few can reproduce his vibe — a swirling light-dark mix of up-all-night adrenaline and late-morning regrets. Clapton has included a Cale cover on most of his albums. "The Breeze" includes many of Cale's most recognizable songs and three unreleased cuts culled from the numerous recordings that Cale never included on an album. Though he never got to know Cale as well as he would have liked, Clapton said he still needed to say thank you. "I prefer to think of him as my older brother, in a way, the older brother I didn't really have," he said. " □



Dwayne Johnson arrives at the premiere of "Hercules" at TCL Chinese Theatre on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Woody Allen back in spotlight, promoting new film

The Associated Press

Throughout his long career, Woody Allen has been fascinated by magic, a theme he's explored frequently onscreen: playing a magician in "Scoop," sending Owen Wilson on time travel in "Midnight in Paris," or pulling Jeff Daniels out of a movie screen in "The Purple Rose of Cairo." And though one might think, with the wave of terrible publicity he went through earlier this year, that a bit of magician-like escape into a bygone era or a movie screen is just what he might prefer, Allen is doing anything but disappear.

He's not only making movies on the same famously ambitious, one-per-year schedule he's adhered to for almost half a century. He's also actively promoting his latest, the lighthearted period romp "Magic in the Moonlight," even as he's busy shooting his next movie in Providence, Rhode Island. But anyone who expected Allen to speak further on the personal issues that arose last year — the revival of accusations by his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, that he abused her when she was 7 — will be disappointed. The 78-year-old director has held true to his word that he would say nothing further, following a February letter to the New York Times in which



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows director Woody Allen, center, with actors Emma Stone, left, and Colin Firth on the set of "Magic in the Moonlight."

Associated Press

he vigorously denied the allegations. The question does remain whether Allen's personal issues might affect the public reception of his new film, which stars Colin Firth as a cynical stage magician and Emma Stone as the young spiritualist whose magical powers he seeks to debunk. "One thing doesn't have to do with the other," says Michael Barker, co-president of Sony Pictures Classics, which releases the film on

Friday.

Box office expert Paul Dergarabedian expects fans to agree.

"For fans, I think there's a total separation that occurs with Woody Allen," says Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "Coming in, you know there's this baggage ... but his filmmaking transcends all that. His audiences seem to keep lining up for his films." So far, reviews for the new

film have been mixed. In any case, Allen himself says he long ago stopped trying to figure out how his movies will be received.

"I have no idea," he said in a telephone interview, when asked about prospects for "Moonlight."

"I'm always disappointed in each movie when I'm finished," he explained, "because there's a big difference between the fantasy you have when you're home writing the thing, and

you think, this is going to be so great ... and then you actually have to execute it, and Emma Stone can't possibly walk across the room as fast as you pictured, because no human can. ... And so I'm always disappointed, and I never have an idea which ones are going to resonate with an audience."

Dergarabedian notes that big-name actors "are still lining up to work with Allen." That would include Firth and Stone, both working with Allen for the first time.

"His work has had such a specific role to play in my whole relation with movies," Firth said, "that to suddenly be invited to join the narrative a bit is thrilling."

Stone is only 25 — less than half Firth's age — but still has a connection to Allen's films. "My mom showed me 'Annie Hall,'" said the actress, who noted that her family dog is named Alvy, after Alvy Singer, Allen's role in that film.

"I was incredibly nervous," Stone said of the prospect of working with Allen. But clearly it worked out: She's now shooting his new movie, along with Joaquin Phoenix. In "Moonlight," you could say Firth has the requisite Woody Allen protagonist role. And his character, Stanley, exudes the same cynicism about magic and spiritualism that Allen feels. □



Joel McHale from left, Gillian Jacobs and Jim Rash attend the "Community" panel on Day 1 of Comic-Con International on Thursday, July 24, 2014, in San Diego.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Just because "Community" is going online to Yahoo doesn't mean it's in for a

lot of changes.

In fact, creator Dan Harmon says he has "no big, highfalutin plans" for its

Harmon: 'Community' online won't be too different

Web version.

At a Comic-Con panel Thursday, Harmon revealed he doesn't want season six to feel radically different, especially to its loyal fans.

"My philosophy is (to) attempt to make the same show, and let the lack of boundaries make themselves felt ... I don't want to take the wheels off so much that people think, 'Well, this is just some new show.'"

He also admits he wavered about the idea of taking the show to the internet.

He then asked himself, "Does it really matter where we're doing this? I cannot be the one to not do this. Wherever this show is people will find it."

Joel McHale says he "had no doubt it would be back," adding he had no qualms going to the Web, "I was ready to do a regional theater version of the show." Gillian Anderson recalls crying in her car when she thought "Community" was cancelled by NBC. "I didn't want to let go of the show because

there are few times in your life when you get to work on something that is good, funny and as groundbreaking and heartwarming as this," she said.

Sony Pictures Television and Yahoo struck a deal to make 13 episodes.

Harmon says writing doesn't begin until the fall so season six shouldn't begin until at least Christmas. The plan is to release one episode per week rather than all at once, like with Netflix's original programming. □

Idiot's Guide to Inequality



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2014 New York Times We may now have a new "most unread best-seller of all time."

Data from Amazon Kindles suggests that that honor may go to Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," which reached No. 1 on the best-seller list this year. Jordan Ellenberg, a professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, wrote in The Wall Street Journal that Piketty's book seems to eclipse its rivals in losing readers: All five of the passages that readers on Kindle have highlighted most are in the first 26 pages of a tome that runs 685 pages.

The rush to purchase Piketty's book suggested that Americans must have wanted to understand inequality. The apparent rush to put it down suggests that, well, we're human.

So let me satisfy this demand with my own "Idiot's Guide to Inequality." Here are five points:

- First, economic inequality has worsened significantly in the U.S. and some other countries. The richest 1 percent in the U.S. now own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Oxfam estimates that the richest 85 people in the world own half of all wealth.

The situation might be tolerable if a rising tide were lifting all boats. But it's lifting mostly the yachts. In 2010, 93 percent of the additional income created in America went to the top 1 percent.

- Second, inequality in America is destabilizing. Some inequality is essential to create incentives, but we seem to have reached the point where inequality actually becomes an impediment to economic growth.

Certainly, the nation grew more quickly in periods when we were more equal, including in the golden decades after World War II when growth was strong and inequality actually diminished. Likewise, a major research paper from the International Monetary Fund in April found that more equitable societies tend to enjoy more rapid economic growth.

Indeed, even Lloyd Blankfein, the chief executive of Goldman Sachs, warns that "too much ... has gone to too few" and that inequality in America is now "very destabilizing."

Inequality causes problems by creating fissures in societies, leaving those at the bottom feeling marginalized or disenfranchised.

That has been a classic problem in "banana republic" countries in Latin America, and the U.S. now has a Gini coefficient (a standard measure of inequality) approaching some traditionally poor and dysfunctional Latin countries.

- Third, disparities reflect not just the invisible hand of the market but also manipulation of markets. Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, wrote a terrific book two years ago, "The Price of Inequality," which is a shorter and easier read than Piketty's book. In it, he notes: "Much of America's inequality is the result of market distortions, with incentives directed not at creating new wealth but at taking it from others."

For example, financiers are wealthy partly because they're highly educated and hardworking - and also because they've successfully lobbied for the carried interest tax loophole that lets their pay be taxed at much lower rates than other people's. Likewise, if you're a pharmaceutical executive, one way to create profits is to generate new products. Another is to lobby Congress to bar the government's Medicare program from bargaining for drug prices. That amounts to a \$50 billion annual gift to pharmaceutical companies.

- Fourth, inequality doesn't necessarily even benefit the rich as much as we think. At some point, extra incomes don't go to sate desires but to attempt to buy status through "positional goods" - like the hottest car on the block. The problem is that there can only be one hottest car on the block. So the lawyer who buys a Porsche is foiled by the CEO who buys a Ferrari, who in turn is foiled by the hedge fund manager who buys a Lamborghini. This arms race leaves these desires unsated; there's still only one at the top of the heap.

- Fifth, progressives probably talk too much about "inequality" and not enough about "opportunity." Some voters are turned off by tirades about inequality because they say it connotes envy of the rich; there is more consensus on bringing everyone to the same starting line.

Unfortunately, equal opportunity is now a mirage. Indeed, researchers find that there is less economic mobility in America, than in class-conscious Europe. We know some of the tools, including job incentives and better schools, that can reduce this opportunity gap. But the U.S. is one of the few advanced countries that spends less educating the average poor child than the average rich one. As an escalator of mobility, the American education system is broken.

There's still a great deal we don't understand about inequality. But whether or not you read Piketty, there's one overwhelming lesson you should be aware of: Inequality and lack of opportunity today constitute a national infirmity and vulnerability - and there are policy tools that can make a difference. □



The World According to Maxwell Smart, Part 1



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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In the 1960s, there was a popular sitcom - "Get Smart" - about a hapless secret agent named Maxwell Smart, played by Don Adams. Smart went by the code name "Agent 86." "Get Smart" famously introduced the shoe phone to U.S. audiences, but the show also introduced something else: its own version of the bipolar world. Do you remember the name of the intelligence agency Maxwell Smart worked for? It was called "Control." And do you remember the name of Control's global opponent? It was called "Kaos" - "an international organization of evil."

The creators of "Get Smart" were ahead of their time. Because it increasingly appears that the post-post-Cold War world is cleaving into the world of "order" and the world of "disorder" - or into the world of "Control" and the world of "Kaos."

How so? First, we said goodbye to imperialism and colonialism and all their methods of controlling territory. Then we said goodbye to the Cold War alliance system, which propped up many weak and newly independent states with money to build infrastructure and to buy weapons to control their borders and people - because the stability of every square in the global chessboard mattered to Washington and Moscow.

And, lately, we've been saying goodbye to top-down, iron-fisted monarchies and autocracies, which have been challenged by massively urbanized, technologically empowered citizens.

So, today, you have three basic systems: order provided by

democratic, inclusive governments; order imposed by autocratic exclusivist governments; and ungoverned, or chaotically governed, spaces, where rickety failed states, militias, tribes, pirates and gangs contest one another for control, but there is no single power center to answer the phone - or, if they do, it falls off the wall.

Look around: Boko Haram in Nigeria kidnaps 250 schoolgirls and then disappears into a dark corner of that country. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, a ragtag jihadist militia, carves out a caliphate inside Syria and Iraq and boasts on Twitter of beheading opponents. NATO decapitates Libya's regime and sets loose a tribal-militia war of all against all, which, when combined with the crackup of Chad, spills arms and refugees across African borders, threatening Tunisia and Morocco. Israel has been flooded with more than 50,000 Eritreans and Sudanese refugees, who crossed the Sinai Desert by foot, bus or car looking for work and security in Israel's "island of order."

And, just since October, the U.S. has been flooded with more than 50,000 unaccompanied children from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. "They're fleeing from threats and violence in their home countries," noted Vox.com, "where things have gotten so bad that many families believe that they have no choice but to send their children on the long, dangerous journey north." Why is this happening now? Well, just as I've argued that "average is over" for workers, now "average is over for states," too. Without the Cold War system to prop them up, it is not so easy anymore for weak states to provide the minimums of security, jobs, health and welfare. And thanks to rapid advances in the market (globalization), Mother Nature (climate change plus ecological destruction) and Moore's Law (computing power), some states are just blowing up under the pressure.

Yes, we blew up Iraq, but you can't understand the uprising in

Syria unless you understand how a horrendous four-year drought there, coupled with a demographic explosion, undermined its economy.

You can't understand Egypt's uprising without linking it to the 2010 global wheat crisis and soaring bread prices, which inspired the anti-Hosni Mubarak chant: "Bread, Freedom, Dignity." You also can't understand Egypt's stress without understanding the challenge that China's huge labor pool poses in a globalized world to every other low-wage country. Go into a souvenir shop in Cairo, buy a Pyramids ashtray and turn it over. I'll bet it says, "Made in China." Today's globalization system rewards countries that make their workers and markets efficient enough to take part in global supply chains of goods and services faster than ever - and punishes those who don't more harshly than ever.

You can't understand the spread of ISIL or the Arab Spring without the relentless advance in computing and telecom - Moore's Law - creating so many cheap command-and-control Internet tools that super-empower small groups to recruit adherents, challenge existing states and erase borders. In a flat world, people can see faster than ever how far behind they are and organize faster than ever to protest. When technology penetrates more quickly than wealth and opportunity, watch out.

The combined pressures of the market, Mother Nature and Moore's Law are creating the geopolitical equivalent of climate change, argues Michael Mandelbaum, author of "The Road to Global Prosperity," and "some familiar species of government can't survive the stress." So, please spare me the "it's all Obama's fault." There are plenty of reasons to criticize President Barack Obama, but everything is not about what we do. There are huge forces acting on these countries, and it will take extraordinary collaboration by the whole world of order to contain them. I'll address this Wednesday. □

Very Bad Week: Airline Disasters Come In a Cluster

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 300 passengers are killed when their plane is shot out of the sky over eastern Ukraine. Airlines suspend flights to Israel's largest airport after rocket attacks. An airliner crashes during a storm in Taiwan,

"One of the things that makes me feel better when we look at these events is that if they all were the same type event or same root cause then you would say there's a systemic problem here, but each event is unique in its

298 people on board. It's still not clear who fired the missile that destroyed the plane, but Ukrainian officials have blamed pro-Russian rebels. The mysterious disappearance in March of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 with 239

Algerie flight with 116 passengers and crew disappeared in a rainstorm over Mali en route from Burkina Faso to Algeria's capital. The plane was operated for the airline by Swiftair, a Spanish carrier. Together, the disasters

"It could be happening every day or never again," said Bram Holshoff, a Netherlands traveler at Berlin's Tegel Airport. "It's a bit much that it happened three times this week, but for me nothing will change."

Lam Nguyen, 52, of Tahiti, who was headed to Los Angeles from Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport, said he considers flying "a very safe mode of transportation."

"And if it has to happen, it will happen. ... It doesn't prevent me from taking planes," he said.

The shutdown of Flight 17 has raised questions about whether airlines, and the aviation authorities in their home countries, are adjusting flight routes quickly enough when unrest in troubled parts of the world threatens the safety of planes. But aviation safety consultant John Cox, a former airline pilot and accident investigator, said he sees no connection between that event and the other disasters.

"I don't know how you could respond to anything when there is not a commonality of events," he said. "We don't have a full understanding of the Taiwan accident, and certainly not on the" Air Algerie plane.

Cox attributed the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's decision Tuesday to prohibit flights to Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv to "hypersensitivity" to the possibility of another shutdown. The FAA issued the order after a Hamas rocket exploded about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the airport. The prohibition was lifted 36 hours later.

Aviation is "fundamentally safe and getting safer, but can it can always fall prey to the mistakes or ill will of man," said former FAA chief counsel Kenneth Quinn. "We sometimes forget the magic of flight, or the fragility of life, but this week has brought home the need to appreciate this more and protect both better." □



This July 17, 2014, photo shows people walking amongst the debris at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine. Ukraine said the passenger plane was shot down as it flew over the country, killing all 298 people on board. Aviation has suffered one of its worst weeks in memory, a cluster of disasters spanning three continents.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

and yet another disappears in West Africa. Aviation has suffered one of its worst weeks in memory. Industry analysts and safety experts say they can find no common themes. Nor do they think the events indicate that flying is suddenly becoming less safe. Less than one in 2 million flights last year ended in an accident in which the plane was damaged beyond repair, according to the International Air Transport Association. That includes accidents involving cargo and charter airlines as well as scheduled passenger flights.

own way," said Jon Beatty, president and CEO of the Flight Safety Foundation, an airline industry-supported nonprofit in the U.S. that promotes global aviation safety.

But Beatty said he also finds the disaster cluster "a cold reminder" that airline accidents are likely to increase because the industry is growing, especially in developing countries. The more flights there are, the more potential for accidents, he said.

The misfortunes began July 18 when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine with

people on board, combined with the destruction of Flight 17, added up to more than twice the total global airline fatalities in all of last year, which was the industry's safest year on record. Ascend, a global aviation industry consulting firm based in London, counted 163 fatalities in 2013 involving airliners with 14 seats or more.

On Wednesday, a TransAsia Airways plane crashed in Taiwan in stormy weather trailing a typhoon, killing 48 passengers, injuring 10 others and crew and injuring five people on the ground. On Thursday, an Air

have the potential to push airline fatalities this year to over 700 — the most since 2010. And 2014 is still barely half over.

Aviation industry analyst Robert W. Mann Jr. said he doesn't expect the recent events to deter travelers from flying.

"They're all tragic, but the global air travel consumer has a very short memory, and it's highly localized to their home markets where they fly," he said.

Airline passengers interviewed by The Associated Press said they weren't overly concerned about their safety.